

The **NEWS-**
Inyo-
Mono **LETTER**

**Dave McCoy, the
man at the top of
the mountain**

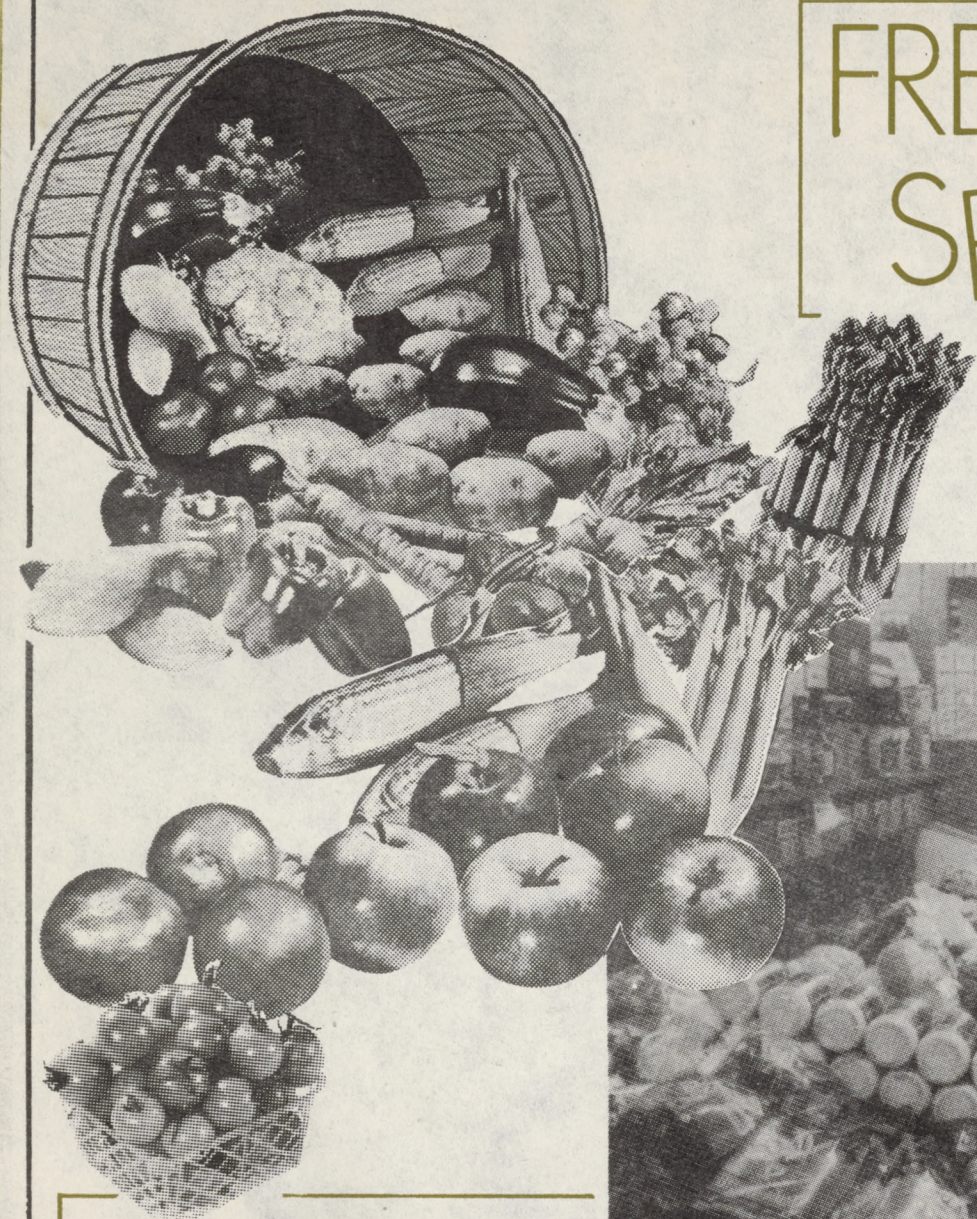
AN 'INFORMAL' TALK WITH
WALLY CHARLESTON
PAGE 36



JUNE / 75¢

The issues, the candidates: a hard look

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COVER:
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MCCOY

Dave McCoy consents to an
"informal interview" with
Wally Charleston, P. 36



A News Alternative
Eastern Sierra News Service

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in this issue:

THE ELECTION

6

News-Letter takes a hard look at the
candidates and the issues, and Benett
Kessler talks personally with Howard
Jarvis about Proposition 9.

NEWS BRIEFS

18

Irate citizens suggest a relationship
between the "county counsel" controversy
and supervisors' "deals" with DWP. John
K. Smith's DWP leases revealed.

"SLUMP"

20

"Limited growth" becomes an irrelevancy
as the county's builders and materials
suppliers are hit by a "high interest
rate" economic downturn.

HEALTH THREAT

26

A new official report due to be
published by the Air Pollution Control
Board presents DWP-caused dust as a
serious threat to health.

WALLY'S VIEW

30

Wally goes to the Mono youth camp
and examines the probation department's
rehabilitation programs.

VIEW FROM THE RIGHT

39

Paul Payne takes on a bureaucracy whose
policies may actually make us pay
higher prices for gasoline.

NOTES FROM B.K.

50

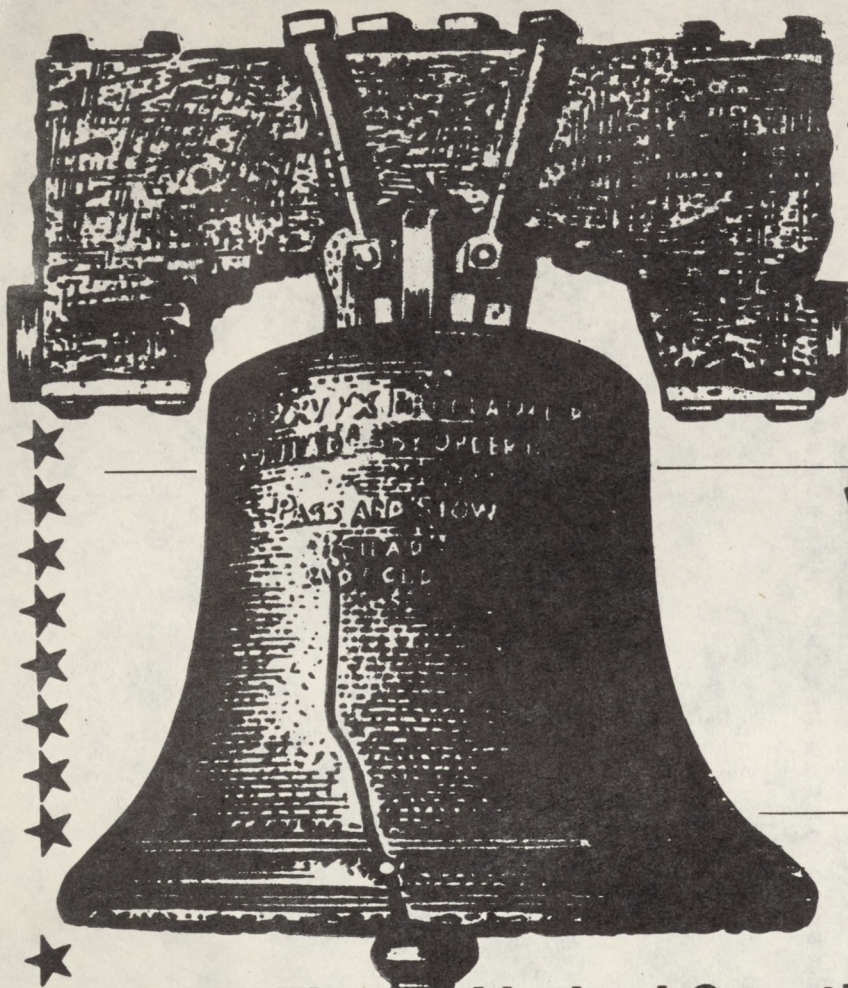
Benett Kessler leans hard on Inyo County's
behind-the-scenes dealings with DWP, and
the real motives behind dumping the
district attorney.

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The News-Letter welcomes readers' letters and comments relevant to public issues. Letters should be brief and concisely stated. The editors remind readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply either the editor's agreement with its content, or its accuracy. Address letters to PO Box 531, Independence, California 93526.

John Heston, editor

YOUNG DUNCAN: BIRTH NOTICE OR COVER STORY?

Dear Editor -

I wish to comment on the April issue of your enjoyable News-Letter. I fail to see the reason for putting the announcement of a future President on the next to the last page of that issue. It seems to me this special person should have made the cover or at least the front page.

If I didn't enjoy your News-Letter so much - I would cancel my subscription!

Grammy Duncan-Meiser
Chula Vista, CA

(Editor's note: Reader "Grammy Duncan-Meiser" makes reference to a Note from B.K. concerning her new adopted grandson, Scott Patrick Marc Duncan. News-Letter fully understands and accepts the sometimes-exaggerated views of grandmothers. Having met the potential president, News-Letter in this case is inclined to agree, but reserves its cover for present, not future, stories.)

UNION AGENT: KEEPING THE EDITOR HONEST

Editor and Staff, Inyo Mono
Newsletter:

A word of thanks from all of us, the strikers at Schat's Bakery, and the officers of the Bakery, Confectionary, and Tobacco Workers Union Local 37 for your unbiased reporting of the happenings in our labor dispute at Schat's Bakery. After having personally been involved in an instance where a local news reporter was told to keep the dispute down in the local paper, it does my heart good to see your example, the application of freedom of press and speech, which is so often abused and infringed upon by corporate economic power, large or small. In your last report, however, there are a few items to which I would like to reply.

Yes indeed, I filed charges with the Federal Labor Board for violations of the child labor laws. During my 39 years in the baking industry, 29 as a bakery worker, 10 more as a union representative, I have witnessed many serious accidents. Since automation, and Schat's is automated, our industry has attracted some vici-

ous machinery. For safety's sake, only mature adults should handle such equipment. Unbeknown to the general public, death or loss of parts of the body are not uncommon in our industry. Responsible management, and our union, are constantly working toward making our bakeries safer places to work. Irresponsible management does not even report accidents in the shop: Furthermore, most children involved were hired as strikebreakers. As soon as our strike began, Bishop youngsters were hired as strikebreakers for wages much higher than those paid to some employees who worked for Schat's for many years. There was no social conscience involved in putting them to work. They were being coldly used by the Schat family. Working children 12 to 16 years old in a manufacturing plant is a definite, deliberate infraction of the law, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 per incident. However, if you play dumb and poor you might get by a lot cheaper. The crime is still the same and it is my belief that some day we'll all be judged by a judge that no one can fool.

The reason that we have an organizational strike is not, I repeat not, because of the "Southern California market," as implied in your story. Schat's workers - You can ask the "old timers" - have been in contact with me for at least 7 years. Yes, I made the first contact but after that it was their ballgame. Year after year they asked me to help them. Equal rights, equal pay, freedom of speech, better working conditions - All in all, basic human rights is what they are fighting for. This might be the reason that, after 12 weeks, the morale is still high, with issues as clear-cut as theirs, the workers will never give up.

Referring to me as a "union boss" is in my opinion not fair and the misnomer of the year. I have 5,000 bosses - my members. Every 3 years they receive a secret ballot in the mail and can vote for new officers of their organization. Elections are supervised by rules and regulations of the Federal Labor Board. Our members have an inherent democratic right to criticize or chew us out with no repercussions. You should ask the present Schat's scab employees if they

can do that at work.

Marinus J. "Pete" Peters
Business Agent
C.C.&T. Workers Union

(Editor's note: Long ago, as a young and management-oriented reporter, News-Letter's editor habitually referred to union organizers as "bosses," which at that time they seemed to be. The editor now agrees it was a bad habit, regrets his present relapse into sin, and seeks forgiveness from Business Agent Peters.)

BRIDGEPORT "TIZZY": THE CHOICE PARKING SPOTS

Wally:

The tizzy Bridgeport's in as you reported, seems to have only begun.

It seems Mr. Hanson had to walk across the street to his Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, due to the lack of parking spaces. He took it upon himself to order the county employees to park in the lot behind the Annex building. Have you seen the lot he's referring to as a parking lot? It's half paved, big ruts and the snow slides off the roof onto the cars. I understand windshields have been broken from this.

From the talk around the county buildings, I think Mr. Hanson is barking up the wrong tree. I for one, being a taxpayer of this county, will park my car anywhere I damn well please, and he can go to the back lot, and I hope he falls into one of the many mud puddles. If he was to come in with mud from head to toe he'd look pretty much like the people that used to come in the back door years ago. Just the way he seems to be treating the rest of us.

Thanks for listening and good luck in the upcoming election. Someone as honest as you on the Board deserves a reserved parking space on Tuesday's.

Courthouse employee
(Name withheld on request)

SUBSCRIPTION CHECK: AN ADMISSION TO THE CIRCUS

Dear Benett -

Enclosed check is for one year subscription to the News Letter.

Your description of the Board meetings was priceless - "kind of a pleasant circus" - April, page 59.

Mrs. Dee Cook,
Bishop

(Editor's note: B.K. says thanks for the check - and for reading her "Notes.")

PROPOSITION 1: BENEFITS FOR THE EASTERN SIERRA?

Editors -

During the June 3 election voters will have an opportunity to decide whether to vote *yes* or *no* on *Proposition 1*, "The Parkland and Renewable Resource Investment Fund". What *Proposition 1* would do for Inyo County and the City of Bishop is provide a total of \$200,000 in state grant monies that may be used for the development and/or acquisition of recreation facilities. If approved, grant applications could be submitted almost immediately for financing city and county park

development projects.

Through various state and federal grant programs, the Inyo County Parks and Recreation Department has, since 1974, applied for and received approximately \$560,000. These monies have been used in developing the Millpond Recreation area; constructing the Independence Tennis Courts; financing a Litter Control program; financing the current Diaz Lake improvements; and are used at other parks and campgrounds throughout the Owens Valley.

The City of Bishop has qualified for a total of \$150,000 since 1974. Among the projects financed through various State and Federal Grants at the City Park, include: Construction of new tennis courts; recent improvements of the existing tennis courts; financing the swimming pool renovations; renovation of the sprinkler system; a litter control program; and possible park expansion.

As stated, *Proposition 1* would provide both the City of Bishop and Inyo County with

funding to finance park and recreational improvement projects. A "Yes" vote would insure a continuing program to meet local park and recreational needs.

Jim Angelo
Director
Parks and Recreation
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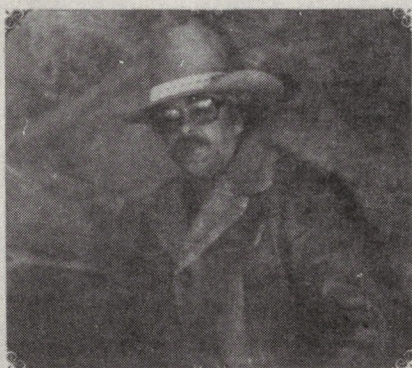
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INYO AND MONO:
The candidates, the issues

CALIFORNIA

ELECTION YEAR, 1980

The Eastern Sierra electorate, like other Californians, may be angry again; they're expected to turn out in record numbers in response to what many consider ineffective leadership at all levels of government. The local voters have a lot on their minds: Spending, bureaucracy, unresponsive officials, possible corruption in public office, the economy, an initiative that might broaden the bureaucracy, and another Jarvis proposal that offers a promise of tax relief.

In another personal interview with Benett Kessler, Howard Jarvis defends the tax initiative and takes on the officials at all levels

Dismayed by what appears to be wishy-washy leadership in government at all levels, harried by overburdening bureaucracy encroaching on dearly-held freedoms, drained financially by taxes to support ever-widening government, Californians are expected to turn out in more-than-usual numbers this year - angry armies of voters, appalled by the way practically everything from the courthouse to the White House seems to be going. They hope, perhaps futilely, that they may change things.

In the Eastern Sierra the anger appears to center in certain issues: Spending and more courthouse offices proposed or already established, another apparent sell-out by some officials to the long-resented Department of Water and Power, a "limited growth" initiative that on surface examination seems to promise a bar-



Elections
Clerk Edna Dowell takes
polling materials from vault

Photo:
John Heston

rier against urban sprawl but which on examination virtually assures more bureaucracy and another slap at an already-ailing economy - all this in Inyo County. And, if possible, the Mono voter attitude is worse: Apparent County corruption turned up by a crusading newsman (who now also chooses to run), and a grand jury foreman who confirmed the exposures (and who also chooses to run): a seeming tendency toward favoritism motivated by personal profit and interest; and - again, always an issue - spending.

Power in numbers, indeed there is, and centralized power it becomes in a unified quorum

majority. In Mono County's election there lurks the certain potential for a brand new quorum at the courthouse, and an entire shift of power. In that county no fewer than four incumbent supervisors, at least one of them tarnished by the grand jury investigation, stand seriously challenged in the election.

Clearly, the contest drawing the most intense interest is that between incumbent Gene Hanson, and John Garner and Jim Browning. Presently, Hanson faces a resolution of the accusations brought against him by the Mono grand jury, and a spokesman for the attorney general's office vows he will press more accusations. At a recent "candidate's night" meeting in their district, the voters were allowed titillating insights into the Hanson-Garner feud: Hanson claimed that Garner, as foreman of the grand jury, "planned all along" to run for Hanson's supervisorial seat - implying that Garner used the jury foremanship to get Hanson out of the way. Hanson, pretending to boldness, challenged Garner to "tell publicly" everything about him that the grand jury had uncovered. It was a safe challenge: Garner replied that he "wished he could," but that his oath of secrecy prevented any off-the-cuff revelations about the jury's proceedings. Incumbent Judge Harry Roberts, also in attendance at the meeting, warned the antagonists that it is a misdemeanor offense to reveal the confidential information in jury transcripts. So much for challenge and response.

Another Mono Contest of more than passing interest is that facing Mono Fifth District Incumbent Don Sharp. Hoping to unseat Sharp are Mammoth Lakes Real Estate wheeler-dealer E.L. Maner, seen by many as a kind of spokesman for Mammoth's high-living establishment; and Wally Charleston, the novelist-screenwriter-newsman whose noisy

Continued next page

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and explosive investigative reporting blew the whistle on supervisorial dealings that led to the grand jury investigation.

In less noisesome races, Incumbent Joan Green hopes to drum up enough troops to fight off challenger Paul Johnson in the Mono third district; and up in Bridgeport Incumbent Coy Ziglar may or may not hold his seat against William Reid. Uppermost in the minds of some contending incumbents is a desperate need to dispel any lingering public idea that they were connected with the Hanson-Mammoth Airport controversy. In view of the public outcry, guilt-by-association may not be easy to live down, no matter that none of them were charged in the scandal, or that Hanson himself remains a long way from being proven guilty to the accusations.

In Inyo County a certain vague but pervasive ho-humness covers two supervisorial races. Many months ago the popular Richard McDonald announced he would not run for re-election. Most of the competing aspirants to his seat are quick to tell anyone interested that they wouldn't be in the race if McDonald were running. The question in the minds of most Southern Inyoans now is how to replace McDonald whose public image was tarnished but once - last summer when he doggedly chose to oppose a clear-cut public will to do battle with the DWP. McDonald was one of the supervisors then all-too-ready to sign over to DWP a flaky "agreement" that virtually ran up Inyo's white flag, but beyond that most potential candidates saw him at the time as unbeatable.

Street corner polls now tend to indicate a certain strength, about evenly divided between W. Paul Payne, Southern Inyo's super-conservative Sage of Keeler, a news columnist and mining enthusiast; and Paul Skinner, also a miner who so far has gained much of his support from

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among anti-DWP groups at Lone Pine. Trailing, but only a little by mid-May, were Curt Haering, a newcomer to Inyo, Jerry Zeutzius who once made a fair administrative showing as a fill-in director of Southern Inyo Hospital; Ben Combs, a local attorney; Bob Bremmer who may well get a large portion of the veterans' votes, Ethel messer who may be strong in some southern desert areas; and Irene Cuffe, long-time DWP-baiter, operator of an Alabama Hills tourist ranch, and former actress who now seeks votes in about the same way she once sought audience applause.

North of Lone Pine, one of Inyo's strongest supervisors - strongest as measured in terms of public support in his district - is Johnny Johnson who until recent weeks followed a safe course that has so far steered him clear of any great public controversy. Potential opponents considered him invulnerable until recent weeks when he joined with County Administrator John K. Smith in another ill-advised "agreement" with DWP. When news of that, and the proposal to dump the district attorney for a county counsel (reported elsewhere in these pages), got out, there arose some ineffectual mumbling about a write-in campaign against him. With only four weeks until election, the idea died aborning.

West Bishop's "establishment" man, Incumbent Dick Engel who hasn't raised serious public ire since last year's DWP "agreement" sell-out, may have found a serious challenger in P.D. "Dee" Cook, the outrageously outspoken former Bishop councilman and mayor. Cook boasts the support of "five" former Bishop mayors. Election watchers see the race as a toss-up largely to be determined not by "issues" but by long-established personal friends in both camps.

But all these Inyo races will probably take
Continued next page



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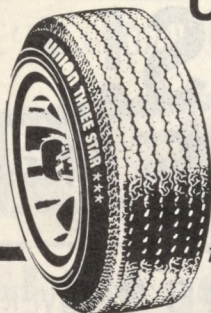
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a back seat, however noisy the escalating rhetoric at the candidates' public meetings, to the county's single local initiative: Months ago, a number of home owners originally organized in small numbers by an Inyo supervisor under the name of the Inyo County Property Owners Association, managed to drum up public interest in a "limited growth" initiative. Their plan was patently self-serving as a prop against what many of them feared (unnecessarily, it seems) to be a threat to property values. They argued the possible encroachment of "urbanization" across Bishop, and some of them saw in the new economic upturn the threat of new competition to old established businesses. Another, less conservative branch of the same organization, feared the minuscule "growth" pattern to be a threat to the area's ecology. With the encouragement of the Department of Water and Power, they gained enough signatures to place the "limited growth" initiative (Propositions "A" and "B") on the City of Bishop ballot and on the county ballot. Opponents see the initiative in a different light: A bureaucrat's costly dream scheme that would tie up any and all construction and expansion in years to come. They also see the initiative as a still more serious threat to the economy; construction and construction materials layoffs are already reaching serious numbers, as reported in another story in this issue.

The initiative may find some panicky support among status-quo enthusiasts in northern Inyo. It is not seriously expected to carry any polling box south of Wilkerson Ranch. Can it win? "There's really no certain way to know which way people will go - even when they have the facts," moans one opponent of the initiative.

A number of statewide issues appear on the ballot:

Another close initiative vote will be decided: Proposition 9, or Jaws II as it has been called. Howard Jarvis would now cut state income taxes in half, which some say would cut the state government general fund by \$4.9 billion. The opposition launched a media campaign and scare alarms blare from every TV set. Many fear that government officials will once more refuse to "cut the fat from the top," and that essential services to the people will be reduced instead. Locally, officials fear the possibility of having to cut back any more on its spending.

Turning once more to the initiative process to solve problems, state propositions deal with issues ranging from rent control and public housing to the freedom of the press.

Proposition 1 claims to provide for the issuance of \$495 million in bonds for acquisition of parks, wildlife conservation and wastewater reclamation. Supporters say it would allow for more parks which California needs. Those against it say there exists enough wilderness and half the state rests in government ownership anyway. And some suggest that the subject of wastewater reclamation should not be involved with this measure but considered separately on a case-by-case basis.

More support is offered to veterans through Proposition 2 which would provide for issuance of \$750 million in bonds to continue the State Farm and Home Loan Program for veterans.

Measure 3: A constitutional amendment to restrict funds for altering the state capitol building. Essentially it is a move to "preserve the historic design" of the building, not to mention money spent on its constant remodeling.

Measure 4 would allow public housing projects to go through without the vote of the people on each project; and under it, if the people would

6 - -8:15 am

John Young

8:15- -12 noon

Mike Bradley

12 noon--2 pm

Jack McKinney

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want a vote, petitions could be submitted for that purpose to get a ballot issue.

Number 5 would allow news reporters to maintain the confidentiality of their sources, seen as a crucial issue in investigative reporting about government. (See *Wally's View* for more)

Prop. 6...This one would establish new guidelines for voting district reapportionment after each 10-year census.

Prop. 7 would allow use of public funds to remove debris from private property immediately after a disaster. This measure is a result of the extensive flood problems in Los Angeles County in recent years.

Prop. 8 would allow the state to issue revenue bonds for development of alternative energy facilities for private corporations. Proponents of this measure say that private enterprise can no longer afford to develop these alternatives, but opponents claim there exists conventional financing available for "worthy projects."

Measure 10 places restrictions on the imposition of rent controls. Some say this proposal would virtually kill rent control and it appears to offer no protection for renters.

And #11 takes yet another shot at oil companies and the reports of astonishing profit margins. The measure would enact a 10% surtax on the profits of large oil corporations in the state. Half the funds collected would go for improvement of public transit systems and the other half for development of alternative vehicle fuels and other transportation. Needless to say the oil companies oppose this measure as their profits soar in the billions.

Then, there are the national and state candidates in the primary: A lot of choices, and a large number of voters registered in Inyo and Mono will have their say. Inyo's total: 9,997 (up 1,000), and Mono; 4,481... (up 500). Clerk's

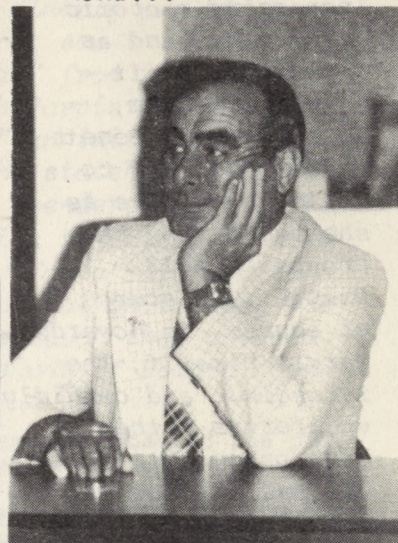
office spokesmen from both counties said that supervisorial candidates helped to register a lot of voters.

And when all those votes are counted in Mono County, for the first time in local history, they will be counted by an automated system. Punch cards will be used and a rented computer will count them. Thus ends the all night ballot count for Mono. It is a system similar to Inyo's.



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Confrontation
in Mono...



Incumbent Hanson
...a safe challenge

Continued next page

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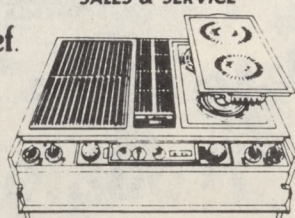
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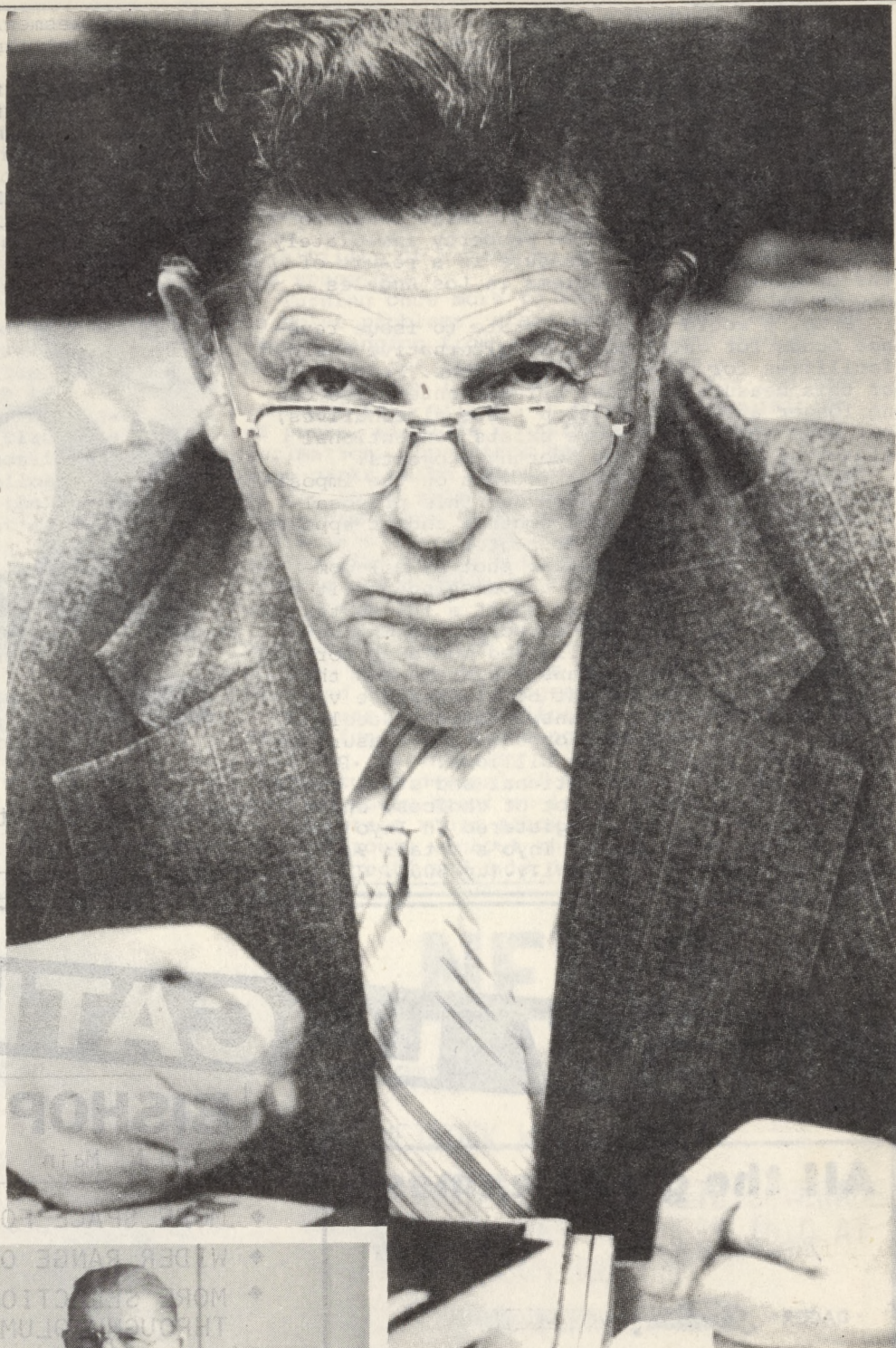


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JARVIS SAYS THE "NO ON 9"
PEOPLE ARE MAKING "FALSE"
CLAIMS TO WIN VOTERS

As the Proposition 9 controversy spread across the state with increasing rhetoric and rancor, and as opposition to it gained momentum, News-Letter's Benett Kessler decided to go to the source as she had during the Proposition 13 battle. The source, of course, is Howard Jarvis himself, the irascible and candidly vociferous father of both proposals. Kessler had earlier met Jarvis in a personal interview at the Los Angeles Press Club. Now, he willingly talked to her again, taking advantage of the opportunity to speak once more to the voters of the Eastern Sierra. Much of the interview is to be aired in a local Kessler radio news broadcast, but it is presented here, almost word-for-word, exclusively.



News-Letter's Kessler and Prop nine's Jarvis

Photo: John Heston

'9'
**Is it in
trouble?**

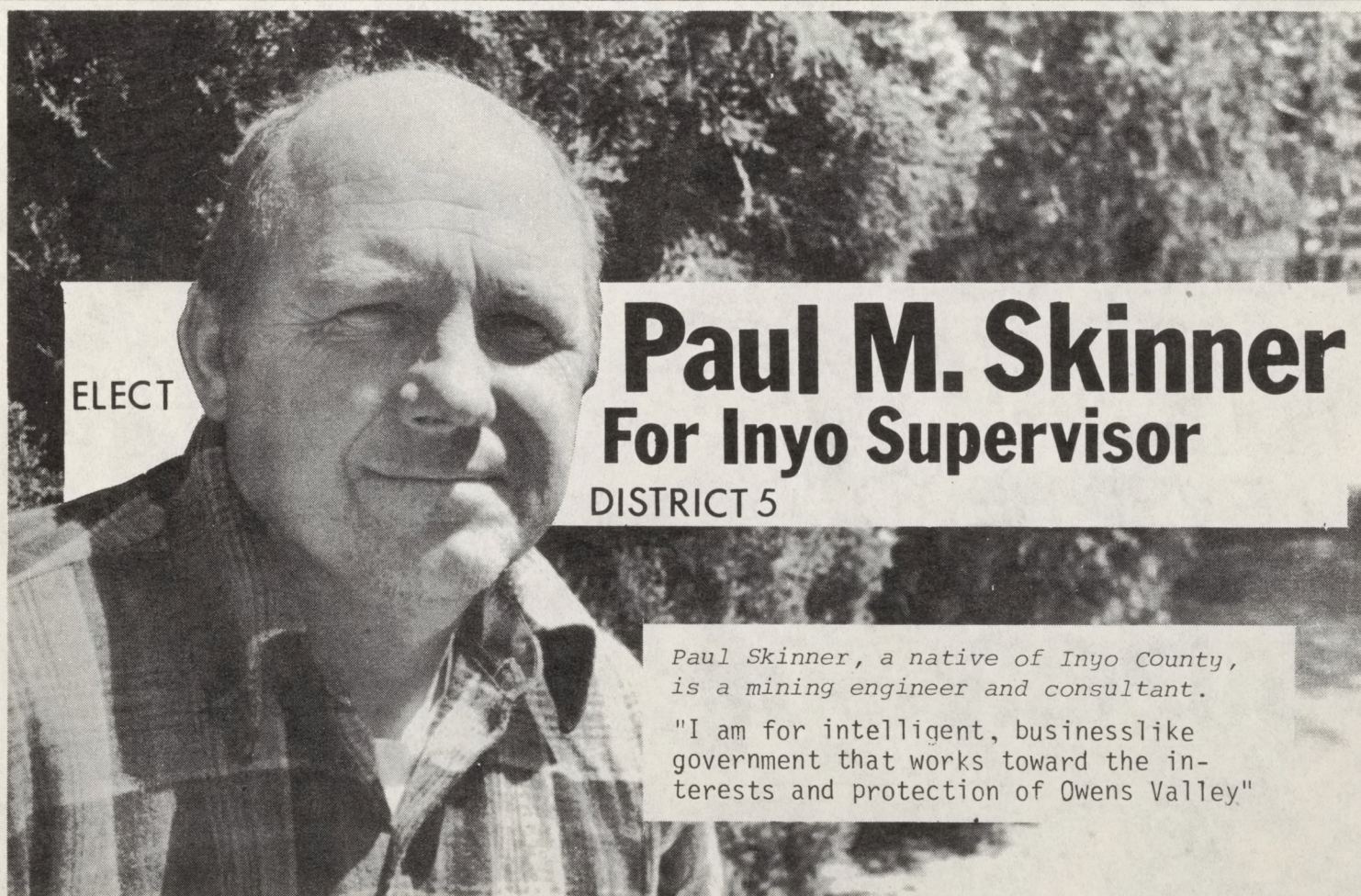
(Howard Jarvis was for years a California businessman, and for years he rankled and complained about what he felt, and feels now, to be California's basic economics problem: expansion of government and its increasing demand for dollars which are syphoned into programs that are at best questionable and usually merely ludicrous. And so Jarvis set out to change things. Through his stunningly successful and nationally acclaimed "Proposition 13" he won the praise of the people and the wrath of official spenders. Riding the crest of "13's" lofty wave, he now wants still more trimming of the fat. Jarvis is considered a "conservative" by those who live well off of the tax dollars paid by others. In fact, however, his actions and his views, usually expressed in a rollicking off-the-wall, man-on-the-streets certitude, clearly peg him as a Pure Populist. It was he, perhaps more than anyone else, who first saw the hypocrisy of officials who after Proposition 13 were quick to "trim the fat" from the lean and hungry bottom instead of the top as was clearly intended by both Jarvis and the public. To counter the trend, he lately introduced "Proposition 9," an initiative hardly pleasing to any elected spendthrift from the courthouse to the statehouse; "Proposition 9" cuts the state income tax in half, and this time the spenders might suffer losing at least a little off the top. But recently, Proposition 9 has experienced disturbing opposition. In its defense, Jarvis provides here "the facts" along with a few of his insights into political realities and his own governmental philosophy - a philosophy that most people share and feel deeply about, but one which they are usually unable to articulate, certainly not in the unique down-home way of Howard Jarvis, their hero.)

Kessler: Howard, some people are saying that Proposition Nine is 'in trouble,' that it is a 'rich man's measure.' Tell me more about it.

Jarvis: I will refer to a story in the Wall Street Journal, which says this claim is a "totally dishonest charge. Of course half of a thousand is more than half of two-hundred dol-

lars." I had used the example that if the poor man pays two-hundred dollars and the rich man pays a thousand, under the law today if you cut it in half, which Proposition Nine does, the rich man is paying five times as much as the poor man today. But class-baiting rhetoric has become

Continued next page



ELECT

Paul M. Skinner For Inyo Supervisor DISTRICT 5

Paul Skinner, a native of Inyo County, is a mining engineer and consultant.

"I am for intelligent, businesslike government that works toward the interests and protection of Owens Valley"

the keynote on the No On Nine committee."

K: What about claims that the state will lose four-point-nine billion in tax revenue?

J: The total income tax last year was four-point-six billion. So they are saying if you cut the four-point-six in half we'll lose more than the total tax collected!

K: Some say that Proposition Nine should state which programs you would cut, if any, and Nine does not.

J: The answer to that is "false," for a very simple reason. The Constitution of the State of California provides that any constitutional amendment can only embrace one subject. Now, this one subject is that it cuts the state income tax.

K: Personally, do you have any programs or areas of government that you would cut?

J: Oh, yea, we should cut 'em all! There isn't anything up there that has any connection with good government.

K: Nothing?

J: Nothing. And I'll tell you why. And I hope you put this in your paper because it's the truth. I was going to Sacramento on a plane a couple of weeks ago and I was sitting in a section with David Roberti, a democrat in charge of many committees up there. And Bill Green, another democrat from Watts, is in charge of several committees, and John Schimdtser, republican. Because he's a republican, isn't in charge of any committee...And Roberti said to me in their presence and in the presence of a couple of other people: "Howard, there's some things you don't know about Sacramento." I was willing to plead guilty to that. And I said, "Well, what are they?" And he said, "Neither the legislature, nor the assembly, nor the governor has the slightest control over the gigantic bureaucracy that we have created. We can do nothing at all

to control it."

I said, "Well I don't believe that. I'll tell you one thing you can do, you can cut their budgets." Roberti said, as the two other senators sat there, "There's something else you don't know. We all have our own particular constituency and if we cut the expenses, we will not get re-elected. And I said, "What you're telling me then is you've got a hundred and twenty legislators and a governor up there that do not represent the people of California. Each of you represents your own little special interest. And so now you are permitting the state to be governed by bureaucrats appointed by you that nobody ever heard of, and you just sit here and tell me you can't do anything about it. That is a disaster for the state because we do not have representative government."

K: Well it sounds like you're asking for a really severe revolution....

J: That is right. We have to have a revolution in this country on taxation because the most important issue in the survival of this country is to reduce the size of government and to reduce the number of governmental employees. Do you know that public employees have contributed one million dollars to defeat Proposition Nine?

K: But in the economic situation we're in, do you think the economy can take having more people out of work?

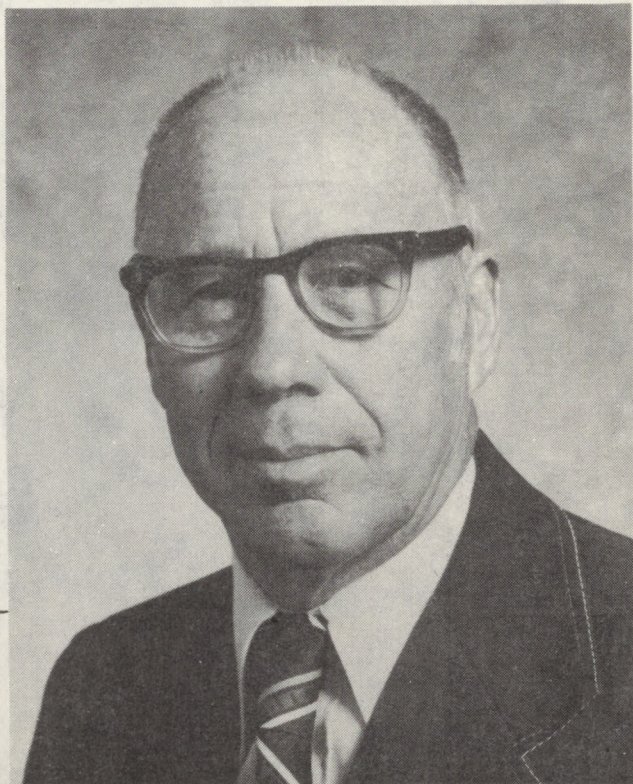
J: Well, following Proposition Thirteen, the United States Department of Commerce issued a report. It was confirmed by the general accounting office and the bureau of labor statistics that Proposition Thirteen had created in California 562,000 new jobs...that because of Thirteen the economy of California was advancing twice as fast as any other state. Because of the

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fact that many of the new jobs were people who did not have jobs before, especially in the minority communities, the state's cost for unemployment insurance and state aid went drastically down. And now we have 562,000 people working who are now paying sales and income taxes they never had before.

K: Are these jobs in the private or public sector?

J: All in the private sector.

K: What about claims that Proposition Nine will cut services?

J: Governor Brown's new budget this year is twenty-four billion dollars. Last year it was twenty-one billion dollars. His new budget is three thousand million dollars higher this year than it was last year. That gives the state a spending increase of eight million dollars a day. The governor says that this money can be spent with no increase in taxes. So where did the money come from? It came from the economy of California generated by Proposition Thirteen. All the school districts and all the cities and all the counties in the state will have far more money after Nine passes and after Thirteen passed than they ever had before. And if they cut any essential services at all, it's because we have a damn poor legislature and a damn poor governor and a damn poor administration.

K: It's been claimed that there will be severe cuts to local government like Inyo County. If you were a supervisor in a small county like this one, what would you do?

J: Well, in the first place, if I was a supervisor and I had any brains, I would know that that was a lie. (Jarvis went on to quote two prominent legislators as saying that schools and other essential services will not be cut at all.) There's a man who has introduced a bill to cut the sales tax. He says the reason we want to cut

the sales tax is because if we don't, the state will have an embarrassing, large, obscene budget surplus. So all this stuff, my dear, is the same kind of lies that they told about Thirteen.

K: What about local government spending...Can officials cut back?

J: I would wager money that any good financial manager or director could go into any county in the state including yours, and cut your expenses twenty-five percent tomorrow morning at nine o'clock and not lose any services.

K: You seem to be saying that there will be more money in the state coffer after Proposition Nine? Where will the money come from?

J: The State of California and your county don't have any money. They're broke. They don't have a quarter. The only time they ever get any money is if somebody works and makes a salary and pays them. Or when some business makes a profit and pays some of that profit to them. If nobody worked and no business made a profit, they'd have to close down at twelve o'clock today. 'Cause your county doesn't have a quarter and the federal government doesn't have a quarter and the state government doesn't have a quarter and no school district has a quarter.

K: How is it that more private jobs will be created?

J: When Thirteen passed, seven billion dollars remained in the hands of the people that was not given to government. And because government is consumption of money, and private money is for production, more shoes are made...more cars are made...more jobs are created.

When government raises taxes, they create unemployment. When government reduces taxes, they create employment. It's a two-thousand-year-old basic economic fact. And the only people who don't understand it are the professors, and the colleges and the teachers in the schools and



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the politicians in office.

K: What about the polls on Nine?

J: We had one in the *Herald Examiner* recently. It showed seven thousand for and two thousand against. I don't know really. And nobody else knows.

K: You must be on quite a campaign, where do you get all your energy?

J: Damned if I know. I've always had it and thank God I've got some left.

K: What is your schedule like between now and the election.

J: I'm going to do five days a week. Every day they're going to have a new guy to debate me on Channel Seven and Channel Two. I've got ten events today. As soon as I hang up I'll get the hell out of here. And I've got ten events every day.

K: How old are you?

J: Seventy-seven in September.

(When interviewed on NBC's today show recently, Jarvis was asked if there are any other awards he would like to have in addition to those he has been given as a result of his tax revolution. Jarvis's reply: "Yes, I'd like to have a tombstone that says 'This Bastard Never Stopped Fighting.'")

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THE SPRINGTIME'S WEIRD WEATHER

Late last year, California weather watchers feared that another drought was in store. It didn't turn out that way at all...

Fotopage

Defying all efforts to predict its course, the Eastern Sierra weather ran the gamuts from hot to cold, wet to dry. As residents installed their coolers in April's warm sun and took their swimsuits from winter storage, the skies clouded up and played new tricks. South of Bishop, virtually no snow fell during the winter - until late April. For May, the temperatures were "about normal," says Bishop weatherman Wally Kennedy. He looked up the spring snow record to reveal that such storms are not uncommon: In 1964 May brought 2.3" of snow; and in June, 1954, there was a frost. Average date for the "last freeze" is May 13. So far in 1980, six inches of moisture has fallen in the Inyo area (more in Mono).

What lies ahead? The curious may find an answer in the surprisingly accurate predictions of The Old Farmer's Almanac, for 1980: A summer likely to be "cloudier and cooler" than normal.



Waking up to unexpected changes in the balmy weather, a courthouse worker in boots and fur-lined coat braced herself against the snowstorm and trudged off to her job.

Photo: John Heston

News Briefs

EARTHQUAKE PICTURES; PUBLIC OUTCRY OVER INYO SUPERVISORS' COUNTY COUNSEL PROPOSAL; LONE PINE MAY LOSE ITS RAILROAD; "CHIPS" GET A NEW AREA COMMANDER; ANGRY INYO VETS

BY MONTH'S END, INYO'S STORY "COUNTY COUNSEL" controversy was pretty clear: Led by the county administrator, the supervisors, some of them with personal axes to grind with the county's district attorney, had doggedly made up their minds to dump the DA and - probably - the special counsel they'd hired months ago to fight their DWP battles. This, in spite of increasing public support for the district attorney and mounting distrust of supervisorial motives.

Too, it was as clear as one of Inyo's mountain streams (now owned by DWP), that the administrator and some of the supervisors had naively given in (for reasons still unknown and hidden behind a coverup of county-DWP secret negotiations) to DWP's longstanding demand that DA L. H. "Buck" Gibbons and Antonio Rossmann be removed from participation in the DWP issues.

Turning the tables at a board meeting, one group of Lone Pine residents went so far as to request that County Administrator John K. Smith himself be the one to be removed from the county's DWP negotiations. To back their demand, they produced copies of Smith's own sworn "conflict of interest" declaration filed under law with the county clerk. The copies revealed that Smith leases nearly 5000 acres of grazing land from DWP, and that in the period since he has acted as one of the county negotiators, his lease fees had been reduced.

The citizens' letter to the board of supervisors made clear that they were not actually "accusing" Smith of being influenced by the conflict of interest, but their implication was clear: They, and presumably many other people, would feel safer about DWP matters if "a negotiator" or "negotiating team" other than Smith were appointed. As the surprise letter was read in a packed supervisors' meeting, the board members appeared stunned into silence, then hurried on to other matters with only one passing comment: That Smith is already "well-paid", their own implication being that he earns enough money not to have to sell out to anyone, and further, that the board has no intentions whatever of dropping him from negotiations with the Department of Water and Power, however much he pays for his leases. The citizens' requests were studiously ignored, even argued, by supervisors plainly bent on their own course.

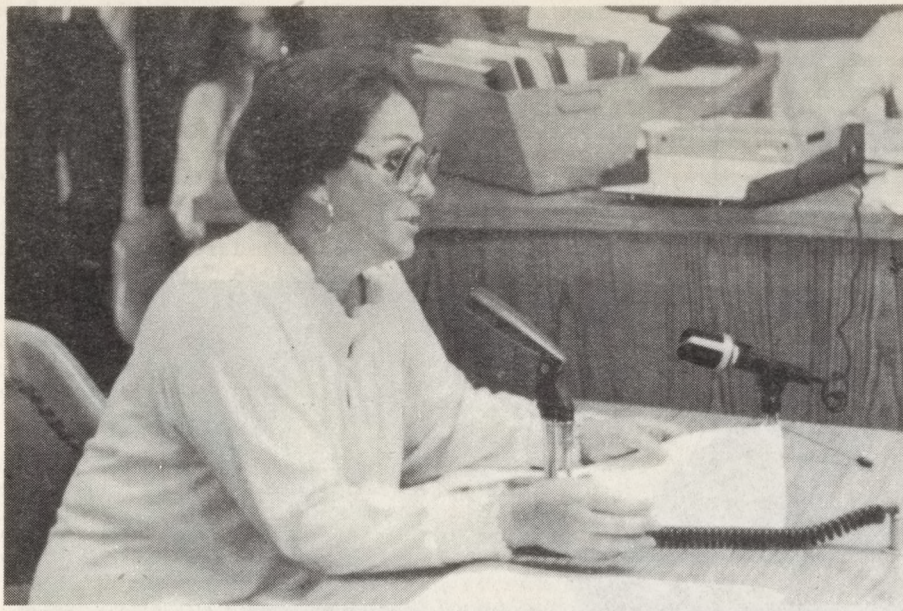
The bottom line of the issue appears to be that Smith and the supervisors in the past two years have come full circle in their intentions toward the department. In their two proposed "agreements" (the first of which went down under a storm of public protest last summer) they virtually give away every gain made by the county, in return for little or nothing beyond a flaky DWP "good faith" promise to "negotiate" the community water systems (at a price unspecified).

DA Buck Gibbons was appalled. Not only would he be removed from a fight he has so far successfully waged, but he would further suffer the loss of a position the public had elected him to. And the county's special counsel, Tony Rossmann, contacted at his San Francisco office, had a few words: "My posture is that the county has invested months and years of time, its own money, and efforts of its citizens, and has placed the county for the first time in history in a position to seize control of its own destiny. Regardless of the litigation, the county, through the groundwater pumping ordinance, can assert the authority to protect itself. By the same token, we are finding unusual and unexpected strength in the legislature for such a small county on its righteous cause. As a marathon runner, it impresses me if you've done the first 25 miles and when we think we've hit the wall, that's the time to tough it out for the last mile."

Despite official denials and attempts to separate the county counsel issue from the obvious secret deals with DWP, large segments of the public became increasingly skeptical as the last days of May drew to a close. At board meetings a single question was oft-repeated by a concerned audience: Why "at this time" bring up the proposal to replace Gibbons' position as lawyer for the board of super-

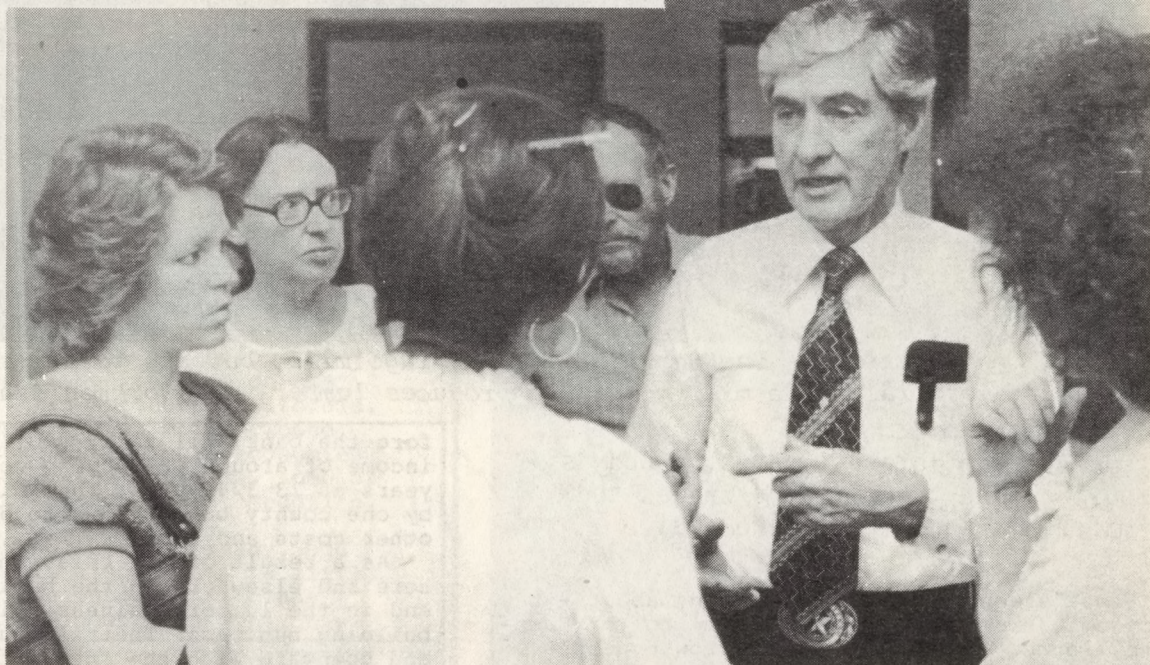


Inyo's District Attorney "Buck" Gibbons, backed by a board room full of supporters who came unsolicited to a hearing on the "county counsel" issue, argues against the proposal that would take him off the DWP issues.



County administrator's land lease dealings with DWP - long known but rarely seriously considered - were brought publicly to light at a board meeting in the reading of a letter signed by Lois Wilson and other Lone Pine residents. Letter questioned whether the administrator should be allowed to "negotiate" with DWP due to possible conflict of interest. His leases amount to "thousands" of dollars.

Confronted in courthouse hallway, Smith attempts to defend his leases. There are those who believe Smith and other officials may have concluded a secret deal with DWP to dump District Attorney L.H. "Buck" Gibbons from DWP-related issues.



Photos: John Heston

visors? And another question much on their minds and voiced by observers (and ignored or argued by the supervisors):

Can the county afford, in view of a tight budget, to establish another new county office and a staff for it? Why not just hire another attorney for Gibbons' office and have him assigned exclusively to the needs of the board of supervisors?

But the supervisors were having none of that: All are aware that a county counsel would be completely subject to their will, bending to any desire of theirs to sell out the county to the Department of Water and Power. Gibbons on the other hand, as a generally-elected official, enjoys his own political base and answers only to the people.

As *News-Letter* went to press, the matter remained undecided. But it appeared that somehow - somehow - in spite of public protest, the administration would have its way. If it does, Inyo taxpayers will be out additional thousands of dollars for a supervisors' private attorney and staff that many people feel are not only unneeded, but plainly unwanted.

...AND THE MONO AIRPORT MAY YET GO TO COUNTY OWNERSHIP

IT CAME AS NO REAL SURPRISE to many people last month when the Forest Service released a press announcement to the effect that Dave McCoy's Mammoth Mountain organization had finally settled the Mono airport contro-

versy by the simple and expedient act of buying it. McCoy had long been a pervasive influence in the airport and he owns a large share in the management firm operating it.

But the purchase may be followed by yet another transaction. By month's end word was out that McCoy may launch a plan to turn the facility over to the county, precisely where he said he wanted it in the first place. (See a McCoy interview on P.36.) Some evidence supporting the possibility of a transfer to the county may be found in an advisory note on the June 3 ballot in Mono County: The ballot question asks the voter's view if Mono residents want the airport under county ownership. Airport watchers

Continued page 41

Interest rates: Construction and materials in a serious slump

BENETT KESSLER



A load of timber moves on Highway 395 to an Inyo mill, but due to a lessened demand for materials, the mill no longer produces lumber, and workmen's hours were cut.

Due to high interest rates, nobody's buying, and the building trades and materials industries take a dive

The "slump" everybody's talking about - the economic slump - has clearly come to the Eastern Sierra. While the limited-growth people worry themselves about putting the stops on what they fear is Inyo's building boom - a boom practically no one else can discover - the county's few builders work feverishly in the other direction - trying to get something going again.

If by chance you are among the large number looking for new housing, you'll find that prices start at somewhere around \$100,000 with no great selection available. And if by chance you are of modest means, you may be able to find a fewer less expensive "older houses," but then you run into what you've been hearing about on the television lately - interest rates. And in that matter it is only with a grim sarcasm that one might say things are looking better. Interest charges have in fact dropped a few paltry percentage points: From an oppressive (some say unsurious) 20%, down to around 14-15% in the two-county area.

A few weeks back the earlier high rate first dropped to near 17½%, an improvement but the realities were roughly these: In order to obtain a \$50,000 loan, your first qualification would be to show that you earned something like \$45,000 a year. And even then the acceptance of your loan application would be kind of ify. But now, in recent weeks, things have changed: Be-

fore the bank will talk, you'll have to show an income of around \$29,000 to get \$50,000 for 30 years at 13 ¾%-plus. The "plus," as explained by one county banker, has to do with "a lot of other costs and fees."

As a result of all this, things look cloudy here and elsewhere in the building business. And in the lumber business which supplies the building business. Their fortunes move upward and downward with the interest rates and with the general economy. The summer looks not-too-bad for Mono County, thanks mostly to a continuing demand for expensive housing at Mammoth, by people who can afford it.

In Inyo, there are already a lot of construction "layoffs."

"Nobody," says the manager of Inyo's lumber mill, "is buying lumber." And his complaint is ruefully verified by the managers of the lumber yards.

As things go now, some workers "may" be laid off at the Louisiana-Pacific mill near Little Lake in Southern Inyo County. The sawmill's manager, Mel Barber, says that all his full-time workers are now restricted to part-time jobs: His day shift works one week, then the swing shift works for a week. "It's real bad," says Barber, "and it is likely to get worse. It's the interest rates. It started to hit us at the first of the year. There's a real possibility that we will quit cutting lumber and just go to chips."

"Chips?"

"Wood chips they use to make paper."

When things are going well at the mill, which usually works two full shifts, the Inyo mill

produces 40-45 million board feet of lumber. Recent cutbacks reduced that figure to about 24 million board feet.

The current economic slump is the second severe blow to the mill in recent months. The first lick came from the federal government and the Forest Service's "RARE II" program. Establishment of the "wilderness" programs cut off about half of Louisiana-Pacific's lumber supply, much of it in Mono county and the company management had to overbid to get what raw material was available. Barber said the company is "not buying much now," although L-P managed to get in one sale in the Mammoth area recently.

Barber says the company "doesn't want to lay off any of its workers," so as a stop-gap measure, their hours have been cut. As many as 24 could be dropped from the payroll "if things get worse."

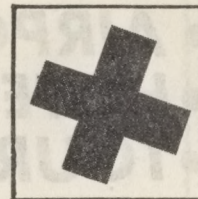
The local lumber yards feel the pinch in a paradox in which virtually everybody wants housing, creating a ready market, but one in which nobody can afford housing - a fact which creates the slump. "Sales are 'way off," says Randy Smith of Bishop's Copeland Lumber Company. In "normal" times, or at least in recent times, that building material outlet shipped out about five truckloads of lumber a day - about 15,000 board feet. Now, deliveries are down to two trucks, or 6,000 board feet a day. Smith too, blames "the interest rate." Ironically, the recession comes in a time of decreasing lumber costs. Example: 2" X 4" boards that sold at \$420 per thousand board feet two months ago, now sell at \$290 - with few buyers.

At Mammoth, the warmer weather may bring at least a little sunshine on the industry. Smith said "a lot" of lumber is going to Mammoth, but that a few contractors are bidding on what he called "scab" jobs they wouldn't bother with in better times.

The Louisiana-Pacific mill may be one of the lucky ones, if indeed it can survive on the production of "chips." In Northern California, Oregon and Washington, some 28 mills closed down, a further depressant to local economies. But again, as interest rates decrease, some of these may reopen, barring government meddling, or further save-the-trees programs.

At Bishop's Inyo-Mono Lumber Company, Bud Jarvis said his trade is also down - "a little." And Jarvis, too says the interest rate has something to do with the downturn. "The only

RE-ELECT JUDGE HARRY ROBERTS



MONO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HARRY R. ROBERTS STANDS ON HIS RECORD FOR PERSONAL INTEGRITY IN OFFICE; SPEEDY, FAIR AND EFFICIENT DISPOSITION OF COURT CASES; SELECTION OF COMPETENT, INDEPENDENT GRAND JURIES; AND A SUPERIOR COURT POLICY OF

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people who are building are those with their own money," he says.

At Mammoth the retail materials business shows small signs of recovery, this according to Dan Easley of Wickes Home and Lumber Supply. "The weather is giving us a break - and interest rates are down some. And lumber prices are down, too."

And where is Wickes' trade coming from? Certainly not from those who have to borrow in order to build. "The wealthy people from Los Angeles are building and we have a lot more material on hand to offer. They're mostly building single-family homes...But there are four or five projects still on the drawing boards which include ten units or more each." Condos and apartment complexes.

Even at that, the trend is disappointing, not so great as Easley and others had earlier estimated. But there remains a ray of hope: If the interest rate continues to move downward - a big "if" - then there may occur a move toward "a lot of late-season building."

And builders, too, had a few words - not very kind words - about "interest rates." And they blamed other factors as contributing to the downtrend: A flooded market and what one of them referred to as a "no-growth attitude."

Ron Hubbard, owner of Bishop's Hubbard Construction Company, says simply that things are "really slow," and he cited his payroll figures: Last year, he employed "six to ten" full-time carpenters, a plumber, two concrete men and "four or five laborers." Now on the payroll: A part-time plumber, and two laborers. No carpenters, no concrete men. Bishop, says Hubbard,

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INYO SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 5 / Vote June 3

is "in a stagnant state.

"If we did not have the Mammoth economy," he went on, "I'd just about have to close my doors. It's that bad." Hubbard suggests, too, that very few people can afford the houses already built in the Bishop area, considering land and building costs. He says a "minimum" cost for a house is around \$110,000. The best possibilities for home-seekers are apartments and condominiums. But Hubbard said that even these are "high" due primarily to bureaucratic red-tape and planning controversies. Recently he managed - finally - to get approval for a new project that went through the Bishop Planning Commission, but due to delays in the department, the consumer cost for each unit will increase by some \$3000 - and work will not get underway for "about another year."

For Wes Fahy, vice-president of Mammoth's Dempsey Construction Company, the situation "until recently" was grim. Dempsey was out on a limb with 20 homes it built in the Meadow Creek area north of Bishop. Sales finally picked up after the interest rates dropped closer to normal. At last report, in late May, six houses remained unsold. "We were getting ready to finance the houses ourselves at thirteen and a half percent for eighteen months," he said, "but now the banks are doing that." Fahy said that many projects planned for the Mammoth area, projects that had not been financed early, were put off for another year. The availability of construction loans remains another key factor in the industry. Some funding in that line may soon be made available through Bishop's Security-Pacific Bank, according to Vice-president Don Bickle.

How does the "limited growth" initiative (see elections, 1980, on another page.) affect the current situation? In answer, one economy-

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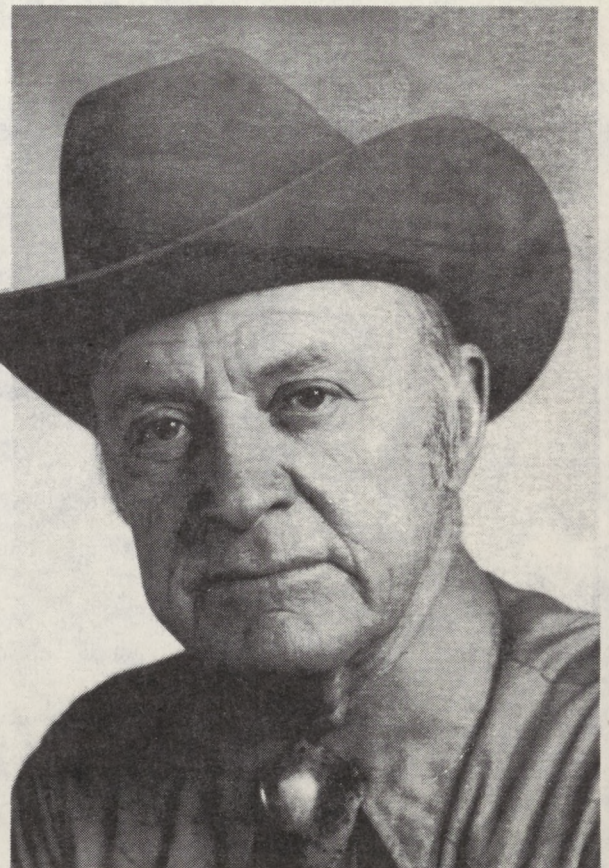
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watcher, appalled by the general decline in area business due to gasoline prices down south, answered with grim humor: "Well, after the iceberg, did the Titanic need a couple of torpedoes to help sink it?"

In view of the current economic facts, voters may be reluctant to launch those "torpedoes" on an industry that the local economy depends on.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 1980?

The drastic market decline that hit in November of 1979 has hung around to haunt us through the first part of 1980. It has a very unsettling affect on all of us when we hear of the various mill closures all around us and no one seems to have the answer as to just how long this slump can last. From all indications, it appears that production curtailments now in effect will continue into the second quarter.

The lumber market has taken such a drastic turn that our most marketable products in the Sierra Division are Oro Bord and Chips. There is currently a very strong worldwide demand for chips. In an effort to take advantage of the excellent chip market, we are presently going to produce chips at all of our mills with the exception of Red Bluff. This will mean further layoffs but hopefully it will delay total shutdown long enough for the lumber market to bounce

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- Statement of Sherman Kirchmeier, General Manager, Louisiana-Pacific

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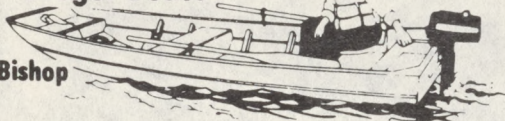
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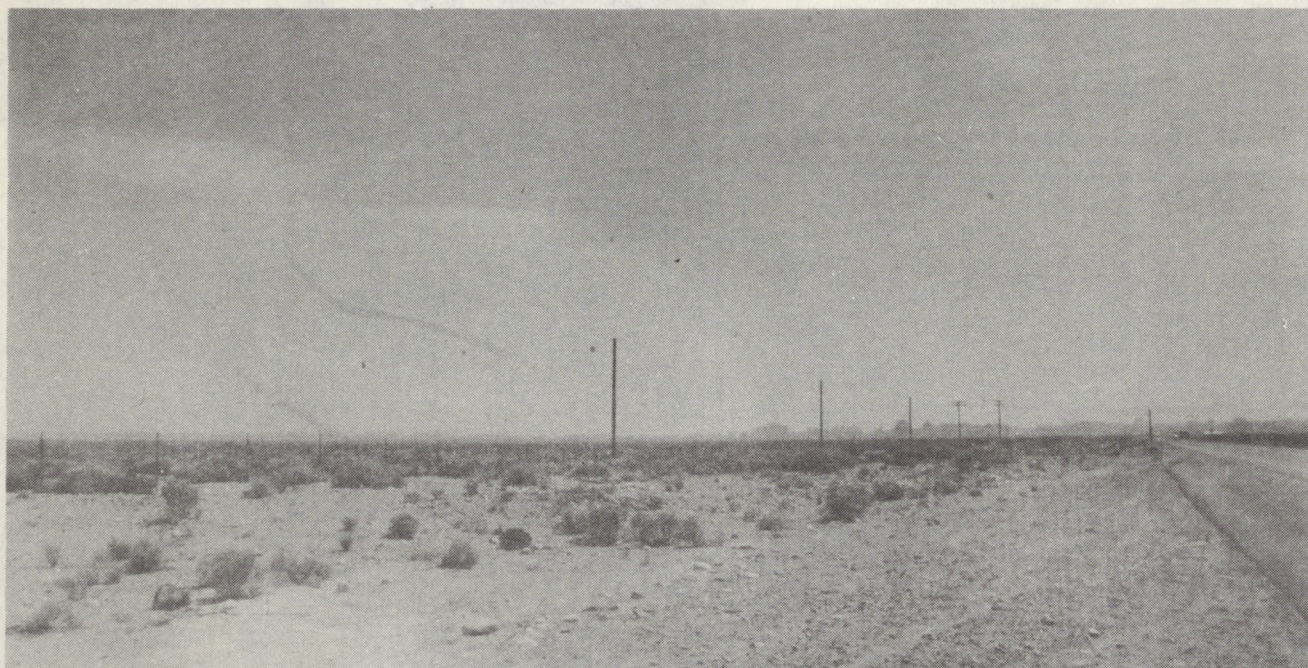


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THE VALLEY'S VANISHING MOUNTAINS

Dust has
become a
serious threat
to health...



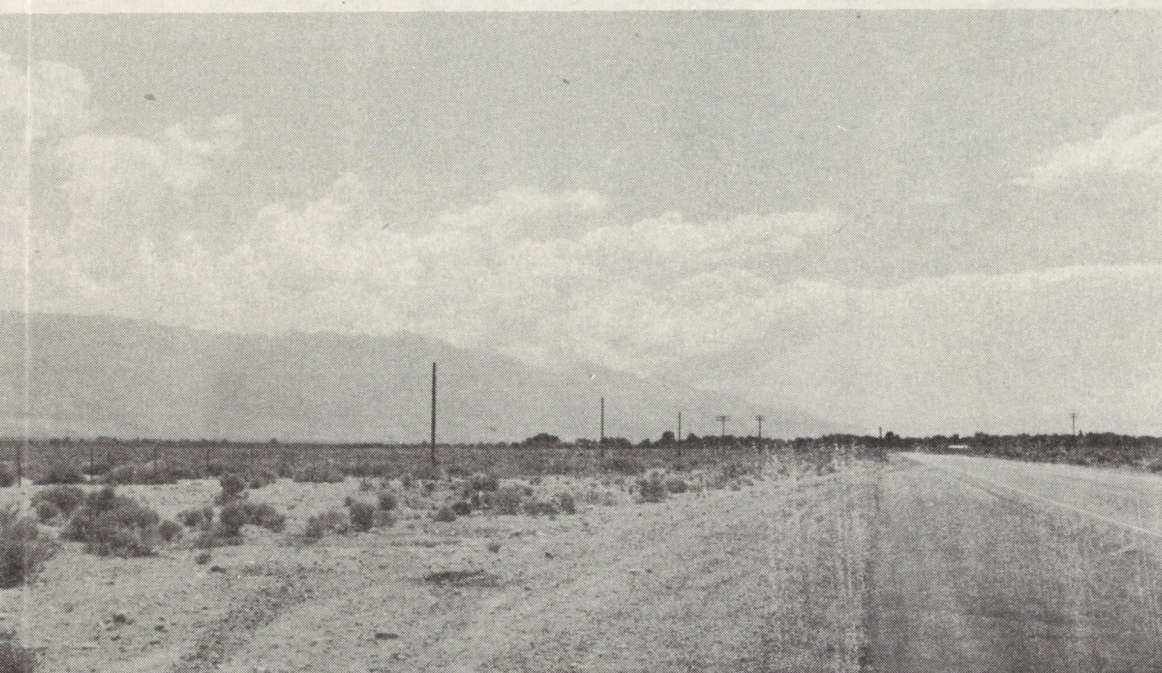
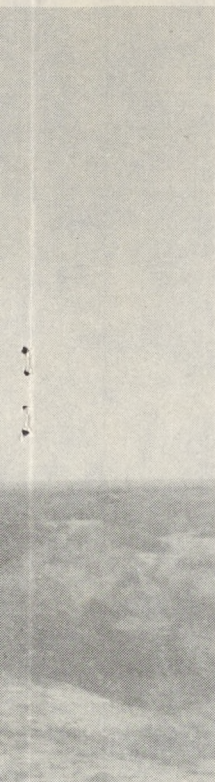
Photographer photographed Inyo Mountains on a dusty day (left), and then waited eight days for, same

Tiny little things they are, and in the Owens Valley they are everywhere. Like germs, they are by far more dangerous than their size might indicate. They are small enough to be borne in the wind - even a very slight breeze - and on inhalation they go into the lungs and accumulate there. Bad news for older people, smokers, asthmatics or anyone with a tendency toward any respiratory disorder.

Particulates; that's what the Air Pollution Control people call them. And "particulates" are more than mere "dust." In the Owens Valley and in the Mono Basin to the north they are in fact a kind of chemical-dust mixture, or compound.

In the past month some "50%" of the patient load at Lone Pine's Southern Inyo Hospital were cases directly related to the windy days of April-May. Scores of other people whose dust sensitivity was not acute enough to require hospitalization complained of lung, throat and nasal irritation. Some of these appeared to be weeping, not unlike hay fever victims.

So far, 1980 has proved to be one of the "worst" years for dust-respiratory problems, and it is this year, sometime in June, that the Air Pollution Control District office (Alpine, Mono and Inyo Counties) will release its long-awaited study of serious Eastern Sierra air pollution. The report will come as a surprise



...and even
on 'clear'
days there is
a lingering
haze.

Photos:
John Heston
Benett Kessler

same pictures on a "clear" day (right), but haze remained even then.

to unsuspecting thousands who for years had believed that Inyo-Mono enjoyed "clean" air.

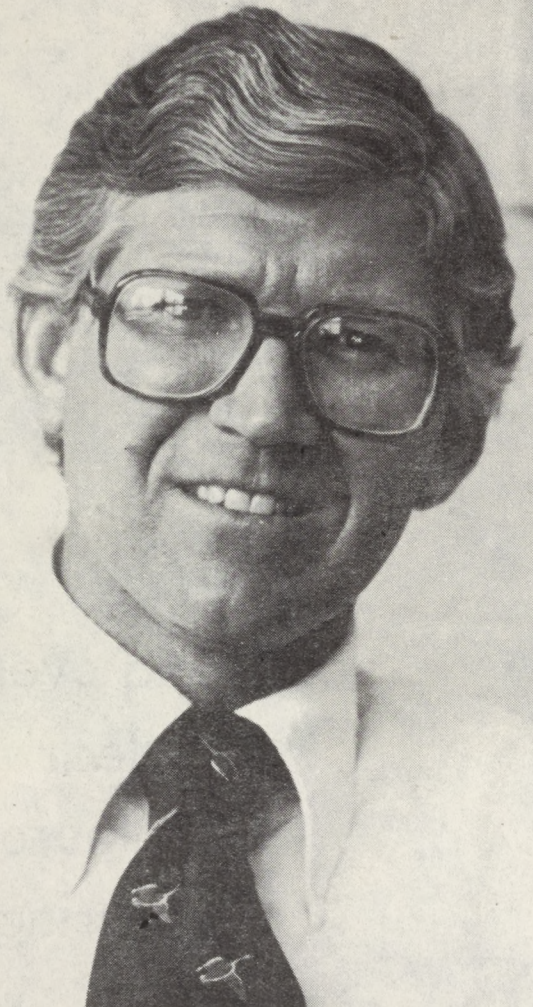
The report compiled by APCD's Chuck Fryxell reveals startling facts about the Mono and Owens lakebeds and the effects of wind-borne particulates. It would appear that on a "bad day" - and there is a steadily increasing number of these - the air is far more dangerous to health than any mere "smog" that the Los Angeles Basin produces. APCD has disappointing news for those who may have moved from Los Angeles to a place they hoped would provide better air.

So bad were many of April's and May's afternoons that Fryxell's Bishop office was deluged

with phone calls. Many of the suffering callers wanted to know if the volcanic eruption at Mt. St. Helens was dumping "ash" on Owens Valley. No such luck; the source of the poison was worse: The dry lakebed of Owens Lake.

In Mono County the situation was as bad, and on a few days, worse. Air samples taken indicated that harmful particulates were nearly "twice" the severity of what the Los Angeles area calls a "fourth stage smog alert" - during which people are advised to stay indoors. "Twice" as bad; such is present-day life in Mono County on a windy day. Conditions there in recent weeks have prompted an entire new series of studies by scientists at the University of

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• Mono District 2

California at Davis. They will be funded by the state government which hopes to determine, finally, just how bad the situation is.

In Inyo County, the county health officer, Dr. George Kibler, was outspoken about dust. Asked if he thinks Owens Lake dust affects the health of area residents, he replied: "A lot of people from Owens Lake to Bishop were sick." He said, too, that the dust storms affected not only those with respiratory problems, but also created problems for people who had never before been ill. He said the increase in respiratory disorders during the dust storms was "noticeable in many parts of the county," and that in his own private medical practice he noticed "about a twenty-five percent increase" of patients coming into his office with breathing difficulties - a "conservative estimate."

Overall in the two-county area the number of patients with asthma, bronchitis, emphysema and other lung ailments is "increasing." Kibler pointed out that a large number of "older people - retirees" suffer breathing difficulties. But recently, an even larger number of "younger people and heavy smokers" appear to be complaining of breathing difficulties.

What is the basic "prime cause" of the problem? Neither Kibler nor the APCD leave much doubt: Owens Lake and Mono Lake. Kibler himself drove down the valley during one of the worst storms. South of Owens Lake he found clear air. An Inyo supervisor, Wilma Muth, also had occasion to drive in the lake area. Returning to Bishop she said she could still "taste" the dust.

The new APCD report, which is entitled *Dust Impact!*, devotes several scientifically supported charges that the dust from the lakebed is the result of "the water gathering activities of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power." The report also charges that the problem in Mono - which appeared only in very recent years - was created by DWP's drainoffs of the creeks that once fed Mono Lake. As the lake receded its bare shorelines grew ever larger creating a new chemical-dust bowl. APCD claims that DWP's export of Owens Valley water contributed "heavily" to a premature drying up of Owens Lake.

The DWP attempts to free itself from responsibility for the air pollution problem. Recently, DWP officials backed off still further from another air pollution problem - groundwater pumping.

Amid denials and angry refutations of the charges, the humiliated DWP officials were called up for a late May appearance before an APCD hearing board. Under APCD regulations the Department of Water and Power must now apply for APCD permits for some 90 groundwater wells pumping in the valley. So far, DWP has refused to apply for the permits, and APCD says in effect: No permits, no pumping. Fryxell refused a DWP offer to "work together without the permits."

Meanwhile, DWP was working behind the scenes last month to take the pressure off in the air pollution issue - offering in effect to make deals with Inyo County officials in hopes of getting APCD off its back.

APCD's report, which runs to more than 30 pages and which liberally includes charts, graphs and photographs, is expected to be released sometime this month. It will go primarily to federal, state and county officials, the media and other interested parties. It takes its figures not only from air sampling outposts scattered in the Eastern Sierra but also from scientists in several fields of study.

Tiny particulates may soon make big issues.

UPDATING THE APCD-DWP ISSUE

In mid-May, DWP harbored some hopes of stealing a march on the air pollution people by taking the case into court before the hearing date. Filing a case in the Alpine superior court, DWP attorneys persuaded Judge Edmund Moore to sign an order directing the APCD district to "show cause" why there should be any hearing at all. APCD was expected to answer DWP's challenge later in the month.

During the session before Judge Moore, DWP's attorney, Ed Schlotman inadvertently revealed that in fact DWP's behind-the-scenes maneuvering had amounted to several secret meetings. It came up when APCD Attorney Dennis Myers was asked "if there had been any meetings" on the issue. Innocently he replied, "two," all he was aware of, but hardly enough to meet the demands of a judge trying to settle the issue. Schlotman stepped in, hoping to strengthen his case, and told the judge there had been others. That news came as a surprise to both the APCD officials and to Myers who had been excluded from the meetings that vitally affected their case.

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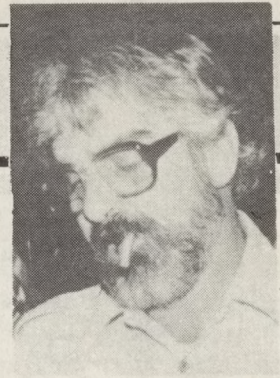
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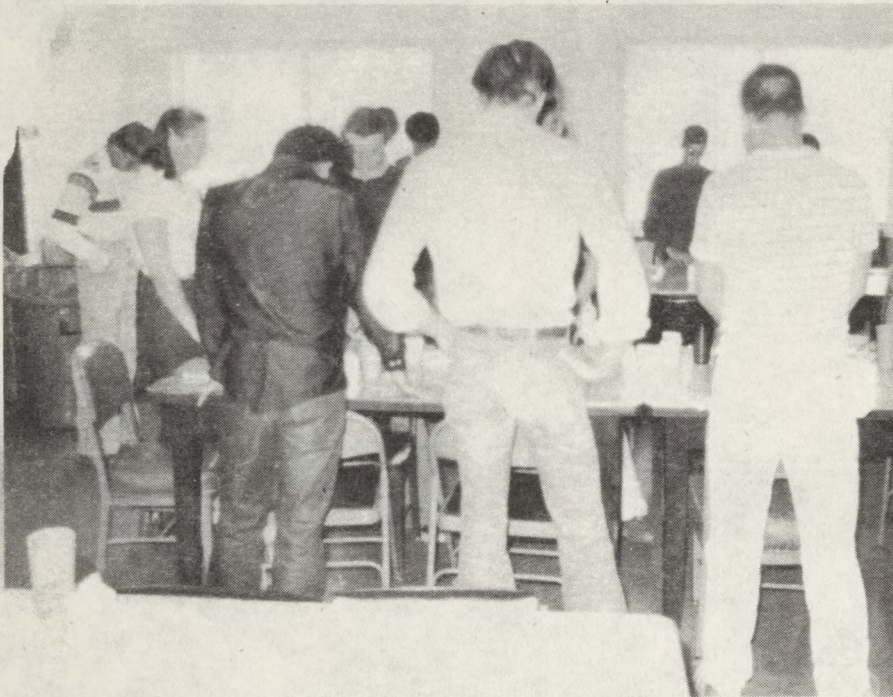


Wally
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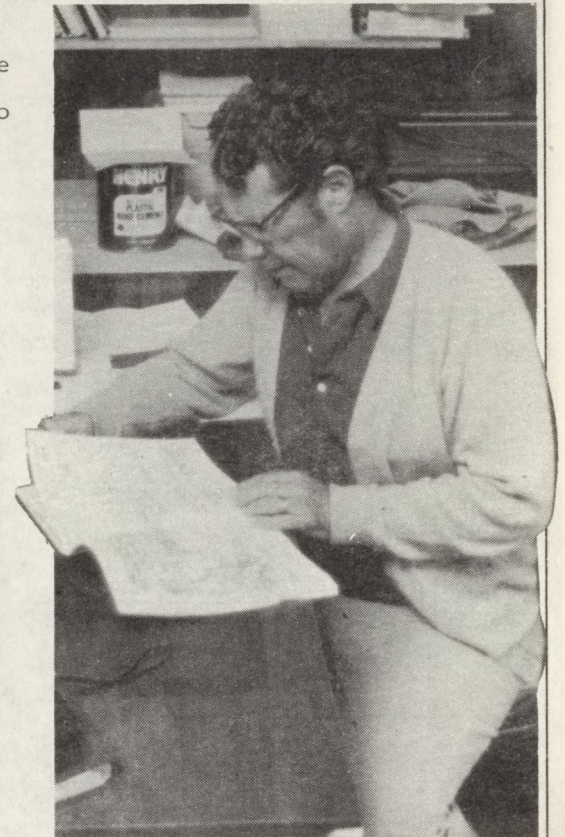
A DAY AT MONO'S PROBATION CAMP: MAURY O'NEAL WANTED SUCH A PLACE FOR INYO, BUT "BUDGET PROBLEMS" LOST IT TO MONO. IT HAS SINCE BECOME A MODEL YOUTH FACILITY. ALSO: A LOOK AT A DEVASTATED HILLSIDE; RESIDENTS DON'T WANT A MOTEL.

SUPERIOR JUDGE HARRY ROBERTS has a soft spot for local youth offenders. It's my understanding that whenever he can - whenever the law allows - he places them

in the very capable hands of Maury O'Neal, Mono County's chief probation officer. Maurie is the director of the Youth Probation Camp located close to



Probationers bow heads for pre-dinner prayer



Probation Officer O'Neal



Whitmore Hot Springs; both a project and recreation center for Mono probation youths

Whitmore Hot Springs, a favorite recreation area for us locals.

Maury says, in 1970, he was chief probation officer for Inyo County. While there, he tried for a long time to get a camp put together for the two counties, Inyo and Mono. He thought that idea more feasible because of the conditions of the terrain. He was put off once too many times due to "budget problems" when Mono County made the offer to build the camp up here. Judge Roberts supported the idea 100%

and about \$80,000 was obtained from the state. That's how the youth camp got started...

Lately, Maury's nearly two dozen court wards have been busy cleaning and patching up the Springs swimming pool. CETA funding made it possible for the kids to earn wages for the job. They will continue to maintain the facility throughout the summer.

The camp's staff, all hand-picked and expertly trained, are stoked with the direction

the youth camp is moving. There are now vocational training classes on automotive, carpentry and other trades. The kids enjoy a winter ski program, all equipment donated by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. As thanks for that Maury calls Dave McCoy on occasion and invites him to dinner with the kids. McCoy is always quick to accept...

But the need for funding and inadequate pay for counsellors



News-Letter Columnist Wally Charleston spends the day with probation boys, is invited to dinner. Charleston says boys at Mono camp enjoy good food based on a balanced, nourishing diet plan. Boys' faces are masked out to prevent possible embarrassment or identification.

Photos: Wally Charleston

Probation camp attempts to teach youth various trades. Automotive mechanical and body work training is a popular one and helps to assure some kind of future employment. Mono's "recidivism" rate - that is, boys who are second or third offenders - is thought to be below average.



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continue to plague the camp. The carpentry shop is too small to effectively teach a class. Automotive work has to be done in the open. Counsellors for the camp are finding it difficult to survive on the pay and they have taken second jobs. Maury, like others of us concerned with assistance funding and new legislation, is hoping the camp will not fall victim to economic cutoffs...

This community hopes that will not happen.

PRESENTLY ON THE BALLOT is a measure dealing with the freedom of the Press. Proposition 5. I thought it appropriate at this time to reprint that portion written by Jerry Lewis, Member of Congress, 37th District; Robert Rawitch, Chairman, California Freedom of Information Committee; and Charles R. Imbrecht, Member of Assembly, 36th District. No argument against Proposition 5 was submitted.

"The free flow of information to the public is one of the fundamental cornerstones assuring freedom in America. Guarantees must be provided so that information to the people is not inhibited. However, that flow is currently being threatened by actions of some members of the California Judiciary. They have created exceptions to the current Newsman's Shield Law, which protects the confidentiality of reporters' news sources. And the use of confidential sources is critical to the gathering of news. Unfortunately, if this right is not protected, the real losers will be all Californians who rely on the unrestrained dissemination of information by the news media.

This amendment merely places into the state's Constitution protection already afforded journalists by statute. That law, enacted in 1935, in clear and straight-forward language, provides that reporters cannot be held in contempt of court for refusing to reveal confiden-

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tial sources of information. At least six reporters in California in recent years have spent time in jail rather than disclose their sources to a judge. By giving existing law constitutional status, judges will have to give protection greater weight before attempting to compel reporters to breach their pledges of confidentiality.

A reporter's job, of course, is not to withhold information, but to convey it to the public. In most cases, a reporter is able to reveal corruption and malfeasance within government only with the help of an honest employee. If such an individual feels that a reporter's pledge of confidentiality may be broken under threat of jail, that person simply will not come forward with his or her information.

If our democratic form of government - of the people, by the people, for the people - is to survive, citizens must be informed. A free press protects liberties by serving as the watchdogs of our nation. Citizens may agree or disagree with reports in the media, but they have been informed, and the final choice is made by the individual..."

WE ALL REMEMBER the Lew Covert Affair. Lew was the Mammoth building inspector who was fired by the Bridgeport Bunch not too long ago. He appealed the dismissal citing the charges were trumped up by one Tom Hill, a Bridgeport building inspector.

Attorney Sandra Medina went to bat for him. This reporter pursued the allegation that the charges were manufactured. While Medina went off in the direction of setting up a hearing date for

Covert, I went to the records. Alterations of records appear to be clear.

Add one scandal more to the growing list as it pertains to Mono County Government: Evidence was apparently manufactured by Building Inspector Tom Hill. It appears he altered public documents - dates to incriminate Covert - and there is some question that bribes weren't offered

to further manufacture evidence in the form of correspondence to the building department.

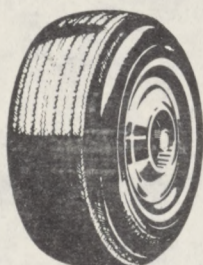
The district attorney has been aware of the available facts.

STEVE GANONG works year around on The Mountain. Steve's a Mammoth Lakes property owner and a taxpayer. His house is a

Continued next page

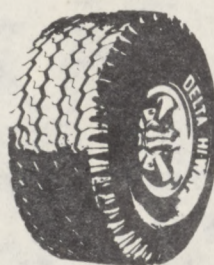
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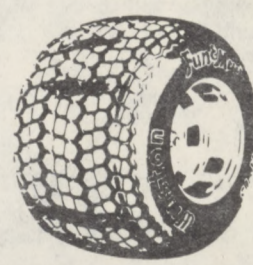
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modest one located on Pinecrest Street. He is opposed to what is going on in his backyard now. Earthmoving equipment rapes the hillside of its trees and 44,000 cubic feet of soil to make way for the construction of a "Motel 6." Ganong is chairman of an association of other homeowners on the street calling themselves the Sierra Vista Estates Property Owners.

On Tuesday in May Steve Ganong appeared before the Mono County Board of Supervisors. He asserted he was "not noticed" regarding the official Environmental Determination of the construction project until after the public review process was already completed.

The board of supervisors ruled he was "too late" in objecting to the construction. They ruled that Ganong had been served notice on May 31, 1979, and anything further he or others had to say on the matter would be to no avail. When Ganong protested that there was a



Steve Ganong watches grimly as a 'dozer wrecks his view....

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lot he had to say and it was backed up with fact and documentation, the chairman of the board, Hanson, gaveled him as being "out of order."

Ganong, frustrated because he was not allowed to continue, stormed out of the chambers, slammed a fist into a wall and drew the full attention of

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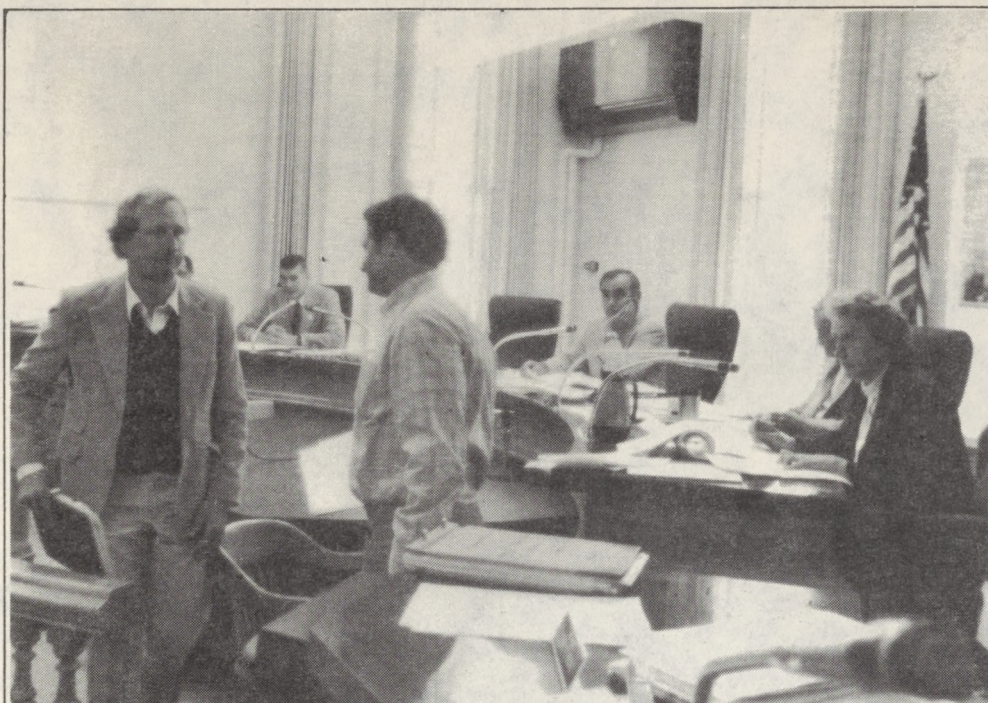
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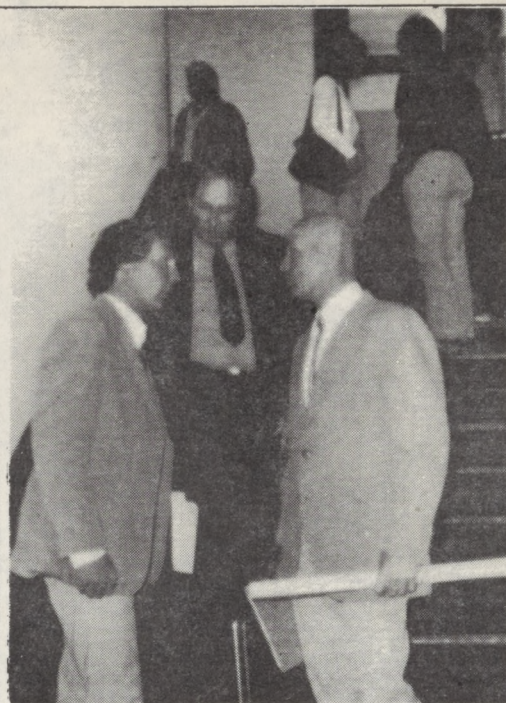
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He takes the issue to the supervisors and stalks out...



Then, a hallway confrontation

Judge Roberts' court bailiff, "Digger" Wilson. When Digger calmed him down, I asked for the story.

Ganong said, "Our association was formed when we found out about the Motel 6 project. We found out the meeting had gone past us without us having been noticed." He explained that in August they had written a letter saying the group of homeowners wanted "something acceptable to the community." There were fifteen signatures on the letter.

The letter was "quietly filed away. It was stamped 'received' and we never heard a word from anyone," he complained.

For opposition in the board chambers, Ganong ran headlong into Dick Pool. About that, he said, "Dick Pool, who worked for the county then, ushered the project in. He lined up the whole grading thing for Glidden Engineering. Then he quits the county and takes a job with Glidden Engineering..." The engineering firm is headquartered at Bishop. Owner Roger Glidden was once an Inyo supervisorial candidate.

Steve said he went into the meeting "respecting the processes of government." He said those processes have to be followed. They were not. "When I got gaveled, that just tore me up." He said he had "so much more to say" - to paint a picture for them, about how he felt as a homeowner and a taxpayer and they "cut me off."

"I was outnumbered by Pool on one side and the head of the building department, Bob Sandy, on the other."

Ganong says he has retained



Hillside devastated by clearing crews will be the site of a new Motel 6. Nearby residents claim that they had no sufficient notification of a building project here, and now may fight the construction through an attorney.

Mike Berger to draw up the necessary papers to halt the construction....

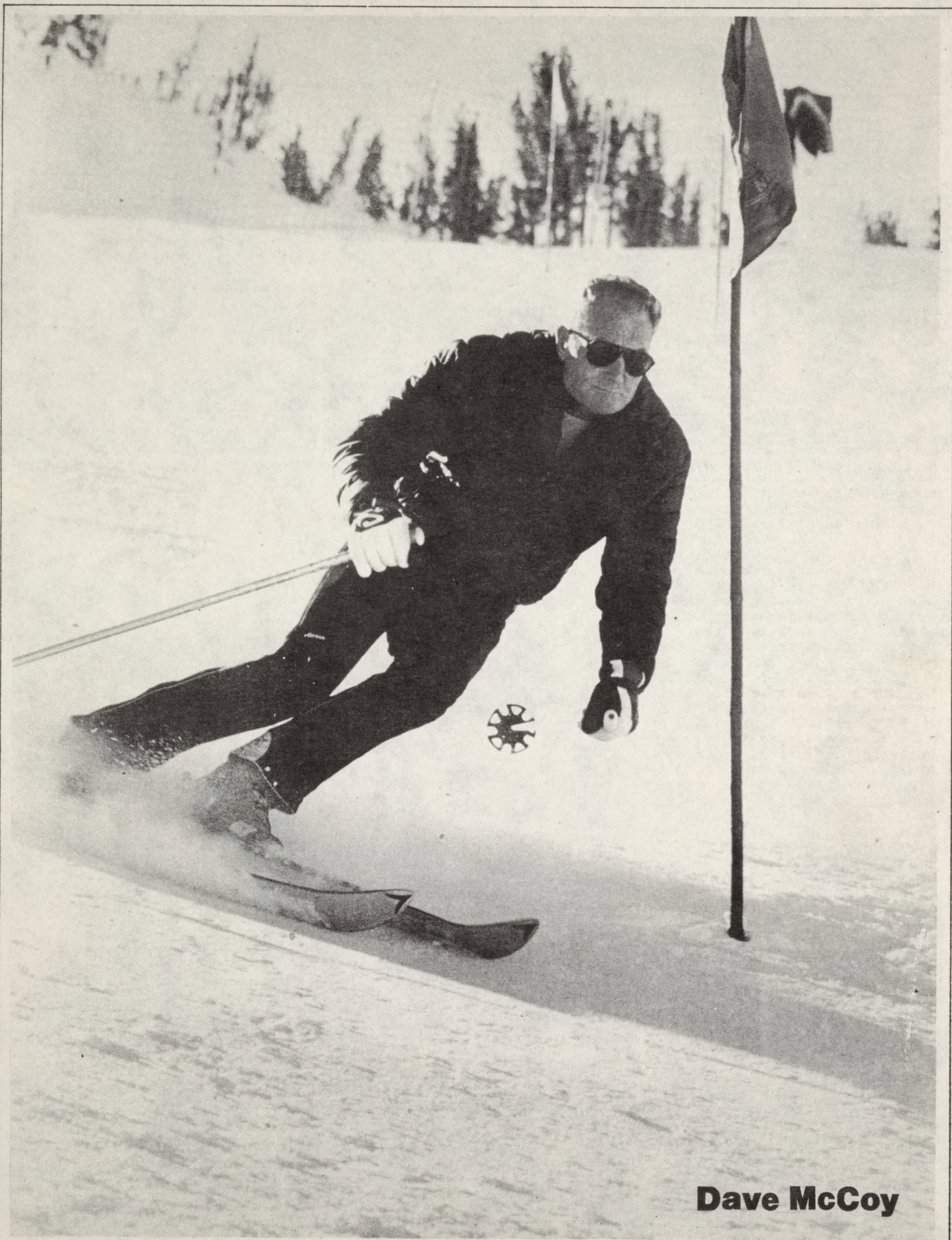
We'll be reporting on it.

I'll be talking to you follow-

ing the elections,

Wally

Photos: Wally Charleston



Dave McCoy

A brief interview with the Man at the top of the mountain

By WALLY CHARLESTON

(Editor's note: Dave McCoy is the undisputed Man of Mammoth, its driving force, its Concerned Citizen, its counsellor and advisor, its power. But he is a man-behind-the-scenes leader weilding from a mountaintop aerie an influence-by-diplomacy. Although his is a power far beyond the most ambitious dreams of most men, it is usually applied gently - a word here, a nod there - and it rests only lightly, though firmly, on those who sense its pervasive presence. In the community in which that power is most felt, Mammoth Lakes Village, it is always There, but rarely complained of since it is rarely visible except to the most discerning. Dave McCoy was first to envision Mammoth Ski Area. He built it; he runs it; he dominates it to the last detail. An iron will behind "open" countenance; a mailed fist in velvet glove. From Mammoth Mountain McCoy has made a fortune that runs into the multi-millions, which he does not talk about; and from his fortune many others have made fortunes. It is probably true that merchants from San Diego to Carson City earn more from McCoy's Mountain than he does - sellers of gasoline, sporting goods, purveyors of bedrooms and board, of beer and touristy kitsch. All have benefitted by his presence; for that at least they are grateful and in those years when the snow doesn't fly, they are as sorrowful as he. By those who harbor ambition in business and politics, McCoy is The Man to Know. But in fact, only a handful "know" McCoy, the media people least of all. His apparent evasion of the media (Interviews are almost unheard-of and granted only "through channels") is effortless, but effective. To many reporters who call, McCoy is simply not in. But in recent months Mono's and Mammoth's several controversies have reached into the McCoy organization and, due to a more active media in Inyo and Mono Counties, these controversies have been increasingly brought to light: the Mammoth airport issue; a threat of union activity on The Mountain; housing for McCoy's hundreds of employees; the "problems at the courthouse," etc. For clarification of his position and his view in some of these matters, News-Letter sought - and under certain conditions was finally granted - an interview. As "interview" is understood, the talk between News-Letter's Wally Charleston and Dave McCoy was "informal" to say the least, with McCoy setting the terms as reported below. To some extent, however, McCoy's very reticence was itself revealing. He is a man who neither seeks nor particularly desires "publicity." He gets all of that he wants at any time in practically any place in the world, especially the skiing world. But, as he explained it, he'd been "wanting to meet" Wally Charleston who reports the meeting as follows:)

Dave McCoy, square-jawed, erect, consented to "talk off the record." He walked to the private office of his press coordinator, Evan Russel, where he seated himself in a chair behind a desk with a picture-window overview of ski lifts and ski runs, and he squared off to face the interviewer.

There would be "no taped interview," no notes taken, and no photographs, although he later provided three pictures of himself made sometime in the recent past. He began:

"I wanted to meet you and get to know you. You've been active in bringing a number of things public that are a concern to all of us." He referred to stories about Mammoth's several controversies.

The "informal" meeting continued for over an hour and a half, and conversation touched many, but not all, bases.

McCoy is neither a smoker nor drinker, but he is considerate of those who indulge. He set an ash tray on the side of the desk near the interviewer, and began speaking freely with what appeared to be an open candor. First he described himself as an "uneducated" man: A hydrographer who apparently saw a dream sometime back in 1928 (He doesn't appear to be that old). In 1935 he started in to bring the dream to reality. With what proved to be a highly accurate - and profitable- foresight, he envisioned skiing in the Eastern Sierra as Big Business. In the "early years" he moved from one location to another stretching towlines on mountains and using trucks and other makeshift power sources to carry a constantly increasing number of skiers to the tops of the runs.

He never took his eye off the jewel of the Sierra: Mammoth Mountain. He braved winter after winter until he was able to cut his deal with the United States Forest Service. When

that was concluded he developed Mammoth Mountain for skiing. Today, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area is the McCoy dream fulfilled. Each year, millions of visitors pay millions of dollars simply to come play in McCoy's snow. As ski resorts go, it is plainly an enormous success. In numbers of customers it may equal any other anywhere in the world.

The success, and a share of the money, spilled down to what lies at the foot of McCoy's mountain, Mammoth Lakes Village. Because of McCoy's success, business and real estate prospered. McCoy is Mono County's single largest taxpayer and employer. With what appears to be a genuine humility, he says that it was all due to the people who helped along the way.

McCoy was cautiously willing to discuss a few local issues and concerns, among these a nagging housing crisis at Mammoth. He talked about it in terms of the large number of transient, seasonal employees that converge on the village each year in search of living quarters. McCoy recognizes a need to provide housing and he says he has worked out a plan with the Forest Service. For another year he will use the Mammoth Inn (which he purchased) to bed down much of his work force. In the meantime it is on his drawing board to build for the employees and to phase out employee use of the Inn to make room for 100% "commercial clientele."

Next, under questioning, the matter of "the airport" came up. Answering an earlier article written by the interviewer - the one which broke the news that McCoy himself is a stockholder in Mammoth Skylodge Corporation - McCoy verified that in fact he is a stockholder of "fifteen or twenty percent." He revealed that he did not "buy" the stock, and said that it

Continued next page

MM-M-M-M....GREAT !



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A PLANELOAD....

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but that few have asked for any assistance.

Many could not believe that
someone really wanted to kill them

Counselling? Well, there's not too much of that anymore. Inyo's county psychiatrist is Dr. Leo Pisculli, himself a veteran of the Vietnam war from 1964-67. While stationed at Subic Bay in the Phillippines he counselled "hundreds of Vietnam soldiers."

"They were experiencing a lot of disbelief about being shot at, about someone actually trying to kill them. There wasn't much of a drug problem then, that came later in the war. But there was alcoholism, and there was a hysteria that sometimes caused blindness or paralysis.

"The Marines that came into Vietnam later in the war were jumpy because they never knew who their enemies were. People they knew and dealt with during the day could become Vietcong at night. I have talked to Marines who were involved in what they called 'search and destroy' missions. They would go into a village and wipe out everything - men, women, children, chickens, animals...everything. It was hard for these people to enter back into society..."

Shades of My Lai! Americans who for decades upon decades have looked on their soldiers as conquering heroes, if not avenging angels, cannot accept a war in which the realities seemed to require the slaughter of women and children. But in fact did not the bombers over Cologne and Berlin and Tokyo accomplish the same thing? And then of course, how about Hiroshima? Is there in fact something more noble about killing women and children from the impersonal heights of an airplane at several thousand feet? There are those who think that the ground slaughter, like it or not, was not only necessary (Kids threw hand grenades in Vietnam), but perhaps even more honest, in that the soldier accepted the decision and dealt with it personally.

In the years since the war, more and more people are beginning a re-examination of it and of their attitudes toward it. The North Vietnam and Vietcong sympathizers have lately been forced into the embarrassing position of having to admit (particularly since Cambodia's



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holocaust), that maybe the United States presence there was not only needed, but perhaps honorable. The movies are beginning to look seriously into the condition of the veterans, and into the real war. Veterans nowadays are more listened to, more respected it would appear. Maybe, after all, the North Vietnamese had in fact lied just a little bit; and maybe we should have known it then.

And, lo and behold, patriotism is 'in' again. College students are actually waving the flag, and many young people, including the women, mind you, say they are ready to go "if we have to."

Iran touched it off. Afghanistan confirmed it. Soldiers of any past, present or future, American war, may after all be valuable people. Or so many people are recently concluding.

The public officials - especially the public officials - are having to look closely at the situation. One of these, Inyo's State Senator Walter Stiern, had a word to say: "There are a lot of people still saying 'I don't want to lay down my life for Exxon.' Starting up a draft is questionable, but registration - just to know where people are - might be reasonable." As for Vietnam veterans, Stiern said that there has been a lot more discussion about special programs for Vietnam veterans, but that "nothing has been done."

But "discussion" itself is an indicator of a new attitude, a new conscience. And one wonders perhaps that if Veteran Porter got off the plane today, returning from a war in the Middle East (as has been seriously suggested by the president), whether the girl's welcome would have been the same?

Next time, if there must be a next time, which will it be: spitting, or cheering?

Or just an emptiness everywhere?

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**What a
way to
'preserve
our
quality
of life'!**

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touched photo.
White arrows
indicate other
accumulations of
trash and litter)

A few well-meaning people - "limited growth" people - got together to block a moderate-priced condominium project planned for this vacant lot. They won, hands down. This is what they won. They defeated the project in order to "preserve our quality of life" for us. Thanks a lot. Had they supported the project they would have enjoyed a neighborhood asset. Thousands of dollars had gone into its low-rise design and into intelligent planning for buildings and attractive landscaping. These were to be occupied by quiet, pleasant, home-owning neighbors. And now, in spite of a number of such well-meaning mistakes, there remain in Inyo a few no-growth people. They have placed a no-growth initiative on our ballot. If they should happen to win, this is what we will all be living with. What a great way to "preserve our quality of life"! Think about it. Then go vote NO against that initiative.

Paid political advertisement in the public interest paid for by a private citizen.

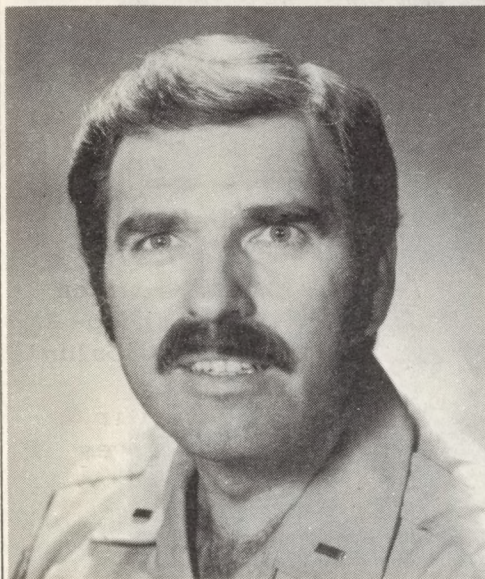
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NEWS BRIEFS Continued

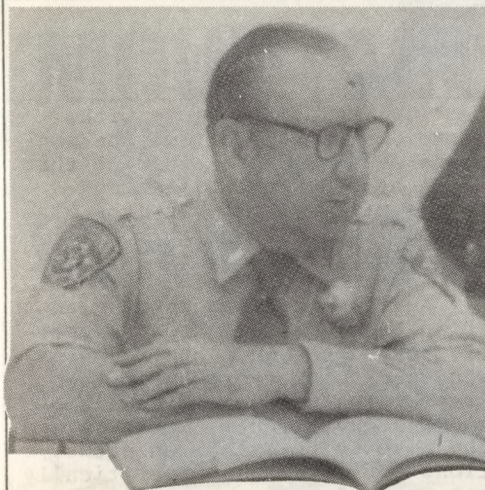
speculate that the results of the vote may have something to do with McCoy's decision. McCoy himself has so far made no confirmations of his reported intentions.

HURLBUT RETIRES: NEW CHP COMMANDER FOR BISHOP

NOW THAT HE CAN BE ON THE ROAD FOR FUN, instead of for work, "and if the price of gas is not



CHP Lt. Michael Dunlap



Howard Hurlbut: Retiring

too high," Inyo's retiring Highway Patrol Lieutenant Howard Hurlbut may "relax and travel for a while" on the highways he's overseen as an officer for 25 years. Hurlbut's a career man who started with the CHiPs back in the mid-50's. His first tour of duty was at San Bernardino where for nine years he worked until he was promoted to sergeant and serving in the Newhall area until coming to Bishop in 1966. Earning another promotion - to lieutenant - in 1969, he was placed in charge of the valley area, in command of CHP's average of 18 officers from Bishop to the county line

south of Little Lake.

Asked what he thinks the Highway Patrol may need for this area, the retiring officer zeroed in on Highway 395's obvious hazards: "It's not so much what the Highway Patrol needs, but what the highway needs: a four-lane to ease the accident picture. Some accidents could be avoided." He ruefully observed that those needed improvements may be a long way down the road.

Hurlbut's replacement at Bishop is 38-year-old Michael Dunlap, personable 15-year veteran of CHP duty, and a sports enthusiast eager to come to Inyo's mountains. Candidly, he says, "A lot of officers aspire to something like this; a lot of us like the idea of having an area to call our own."

But what are his views on serious aspects of law enforcement? Is he, like many of his fellow law enforcement men a law-and-order man?

"Many people tag the Highway Patrol officers as 'traffic cops,'" he replies, "but in Inyo the job's not so specialized." Highway Patrolmen often serve as "back-up" men for the deputies and police, playing a needed role in the valley's justice system. Dunlap says he's "for order," and as for application of the law: "I take the party-line humanistic approach, but I'm not fond of drunk drivers." A subtle warning, perhaps, that Inyo's ongoing driving-while-intoxicated problem may be watched even more closely.

Early-on, the new lieutenant ran headlong into the problem faced by most incoming law enforcement personnel; the county's nagging housing problem. After he resolves his housing needs, Dunlap will bring along his wife and two children. He is not unfamiliar with the desert, having served at Mojave and Ridgecrest. He comes here from Sacramento.

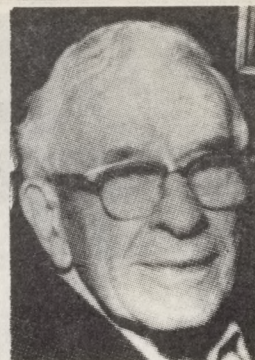
FRED SCHAEFFER DIES

FOR 52 YEARS FRED SCHAEFFER, SR., had managed the old Winne-dumah Hotel at Independence. He came originally from Ohio to live in Owens Valley. Late in May, he died.

Mr. Schaeffer was 82 years old when recently he entered the hospital at Lone Pine for minor surgery. He was not to recover from the operation...

During his years in the valley, he and his wife Hattie became well known for their quaint hotel and their quiet hospitality. Only in the past year had they sold the historic landmark and retired to live in a house in Independence.

Mr. Schaeffer is survived by his wife, two sons Robert and



Fred of Bishop, five grandchildren, and a sister.

Funeral services were held at historic Pioneer Methodist Church with the Reverend Ted Hampton officiating, along with officers of the Masonic Lodge

Mr. Schaeffer was long a member of the Methodist Church and the Lodge in which he had for years been active.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be sent to the Shriners Crippled Childrens' Hospital, in care of Box 463, Big Pine.

HANSON CASE: ATTORNEY GENERAL FILES NEW WRIT

THOSE NAGGING GRAND JURY accusations against Mono supervisor Gene Hanson just won't go away. State Attorney General's representative Paul Bishop told the News Service in effect that he's not about to let the matter drop, and he filed another writ with the Third District Court of Appeals. This one would bring back nine jury accusations previously handed down against Hanson, but later dropped by another court. Originally, there were 12.

A part of that writ, "The Statement of Facts", reveals some information included in sealed grand jury transcripts. Bishop said the "Statement" is his summation of the content of the transcripts. When Reporter Wally Charleston requested copies of the statement at the Mono Clerk's office, his request was granted; the writ is "public" information. But Charleston met with "some static" as some officials claimed it was illegal.

Asked about this, Attorney Bishop said, "I have to set forth a statement of the facts that support my arguments. I'm required to do this." He said all parties involved in the case receive grand jury transcripts. Bishop said he "reviewed the transcripts" taking pieces of evidence to support his arguments, so that the court can make a determination on the writ.

The five-page statement says that "Because the county was considering purchase of the airport in November 1977, Hanson resigned his position on the board of directors and quit his job as airport manager to avoid the appearance of conflict when the purchase took place (RT 19,20,exh.3). However, he retained his shares of stock and stayed on the payroll of Mam-

?

Maybe it was the weather and he got spring fever; or maybe it was because fishing season is now open and who wants to work when there's a Brown to be caught? Or maybe he just took off for a short beer. In any case, when the photographer found this weirdly abandoned garden scene at Independence, he couldn't resist snapping a shot of the pair of workman's gloves left out to dry. Or maybe it was just an invisible gardener.



Photo: John Heston

moth Sky Lodge Corporation through February, 1978 (RT 1, 28)."

In the statement Bishop says Mammoth Sky Lodge was "anxious" to sell the Mammoth-June Lakes Airport because it was "losing money."

"As of spring 1978, the airport facilities were rundown; the corporate bank account was overdrawn; the property taxes were overdue; and Forest Service fees were a year past due...." His statement goes on to say that Hanson called a special shareholders' meeting to figure out the future of the airport. And that the meeting was held on April 23, 1978. Bishop says that at the meeting, Hanson asked that the corporation ask the county for an immediate payment of about \$35,000 and negotiate the remainder of the sale. That money, according to Bishop, was needed to pay pressing debts. The statement says Hanson offered to bring the matter before the Mono board to help Flave George of Mammoth Sky Lodge to make a presentation.

Then the statement says Hanson claimed that he sold his restricted shares of stock in Mammoth Sky Lodge and his interest in Long Valley Flying Service to a corporation named Mountain Fly-

ing service. "Mountain Flying Service," according to the statement, "was a small newly-formulated corporation owned by Hanson's son, Robert, and son-in-law, Ken Brown, together with three other individuals."

The statement further says that "On July 5, 1978, in a 3-to-2 vote, with Hanson voting in favor, the Board of Supervisors authorized up to \$10,000 in county funds to have appraisals done on the airport to facilitate negotiations for its purchase."

Then, as the statement continues, in November, 1978, Mono County reached an agreement with Mammoth Sky Lodge Corporation for sale of the airport facility.

Bishop's statement includes information involving several other incidents regarding Hanson's dealings on the airport during the purchase negotiations. A final paragraph reads; "In July 1978, after an investigation into the acquisition of the Mammoth-June lakes airport had begun, Mr. Hanson admitted to Mr. Denton (Mono District Attorney) that he had never transferred his stock in Mammoth Sky Lodge Corporation."

Asked for comment on Bishop's writ and statement of facts, Hanson's attorney Willis Smith said the statement was "wholly improv-

er." He said, "To begin with, Bishop makes public from the contents of a closed transcript that which he wants to...slanting things his way. It was in violation of the court order (to seal the grand jury transcripts) and he did it on purpose."

Again, Smith suggested Bishop is in league with Hanson's supervisory opponent, John Garner, who is also the foreman of the grand jury that handed down Hanson's accusations). Smith called the move to re-establish accusations against Hanson "politically motivated."

The attorney also said the grand jury transcripts are themselves "full of error" since Bishop used "leading questions" to gain testimony. When asked, as claimed in the statement of facts, if Hanson was involved in Skylodge when he voted as a supervisor to buy the airport from Skylodge, Smith said that Bishop "tends to scramble up his dates" and that he doesn't believe that Hanson ever voted on that.

In a word, the Inyo attorney said he thinks that "It stinks." Of Paul Bishop himself, Smith said "If he makes this little Mono

Continued page 46



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Mammoth's 6.2 'quakes



Photos: Wally Charleston,
Benett Kessler, John Heston

Mammoth Safeway Manager Don Sharp picks his way through damaged supermarket. At right, Deputy Don Mooneyham aids youthful campers injured in Convict Lake avalanche.



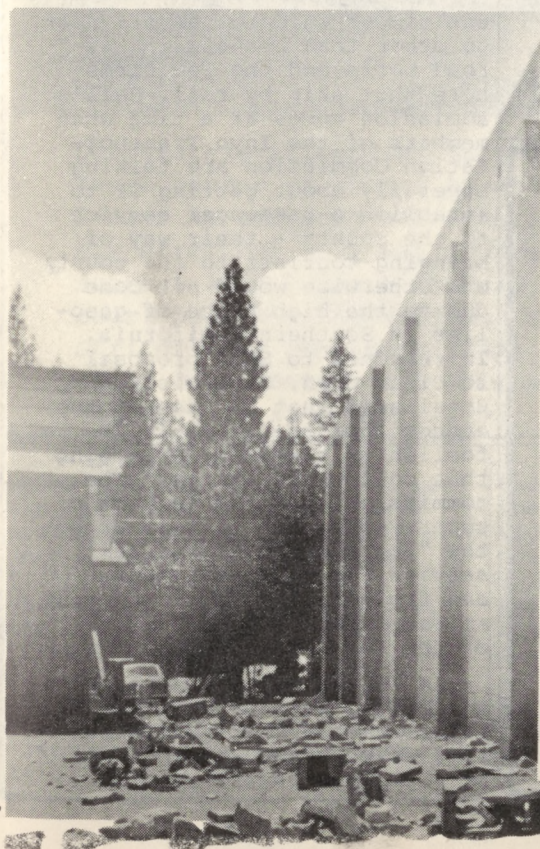


Aftershocks ranging high on the Richter Scale piled avalanche on avalanche in canyons around Convict Lake. Clouds of dust prompted one viewer to comment: "It looked like the mountains were on fire." Youths at lower left managed to hike out of this area during quakes. A slide killed their dog.

Below - Concrete block rubble was shaken from a wall of Mammoth's Buster's Market. Such danger areas were quickly roped off in the fear that further aftershocks would cause injuries among hundreds of gaping curiosity seekers. There was little visible structural



Mono officers make arrests after a bulletin went out describing occupants of a car involved in an assault incident with a Forest Service employee. The Forest Service joined other emergency personnel in closing off certain roads considered dangerous; there were confrontations with people insistent on going into danger areas. Federal charges were filed in this case. Later, Mammoth Lakes Village itself was blocked off to incoming traffic.



DEADLY 'SPORT'

Photo: John Heston

As "officials" of the sports car competition hastily pointed out, the time trials their organization holds each year at the old Manzanar air strip have gone on for 10 years virtually without a hitch. But not so this year: One of the drivers, Earl Wheeler, was serving as a flagman and, seeing a stalled racer in the track ahead, ran into the track to wave off another following car. Its driver braked to stop, but skidded at high speed into the flagman who apparently could not get out of his way. The car, upper left in photo, slammed into Wheeler's legs throwing him upward into the windshield. He was later flown to an intensive care unit at Loma Linda Hospital where his chances for recovery were said to be very slim.



NEWS BRIEFS Continued

County issue a full time job, he will have no other assignments. He's a lovely boy. Tell him I said so."

SP SAYS ITS TRAINS CAN'T RUN ON MERE NOSTALGIA

Inyo County may soon be on the priority list for discontinuance of railroad service out of Mojave.

Last week, a public relations official of Southern Pacific Railroad was questioned concern-

ing the persistent and ongoing rumors about a closedown of the Lone Pine Station. Alas, the rumors proved to be at least partly true: PR man Rich Hall admitted that Southern Pacific "has, under study, the possibility of abandoning the Lone Pine branch," and that "We've had this under study for some time."

Southern Pacific's reasons for a closedown are the usual ones: Very little traffic on a line that Southern Pacific thinks is "expensive to maintain" in terms of right-of-way, taxes, crews and fuel - a mat-

ter, as Hall said, of "bad economics."

The first hint of doom for Lone Pine's and the valley's, only rail connection, came some months back with the retirement of Firman "Woody" Wood who for years had served as the Lone Pine station agent. (News-Letter, March, 1980)

The suggestion of a permanent closedown comes as bad news to other than nostalgic railroad buffs and the few firms here that ship by rail. Hall's admission comes at a time when members of the Inyo Transportation Commission are talking hopefully about getting SP to establish a passenger service to the county - their way of bringing tourists to the county who otherwise would not come due to the high price of gasoline in Southern California. In response to SP's proposal to close down, Supervisor Dick Engel said that in view of the energy shortage it would "be foolish to take away something that could save energy." The commission, made up in part of supervisors, had in fact urged the "upgrading" of Inyo rail service for both passengers and freight. Inyo's legislators at Sacramento were appraised of the local commission's hopes.

As for energy conservation and costs, Hall argues that railroads are "not so inexpensive as everyone thinks," and he explained that fuel effici-

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John Boothe

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BISHOP

Jail tragedy

Photo :
Benett Kessler,
John Heston



Desperately attempting to revive him, a rescue worker (near center of photo) breathes into the mouth of Ron Sterns as officers and other rescuers hurriedly wheel his stretcher to a waiting rescue truck. Sterns was a suspect in a bizarre robbery and was awaiting further court hearings. Conducting routine hourly cell checks, officers had come upon stark tragedy: Attaching a bed sheet to a ventilator, Sterns had hanged himself. All attempts to save him failed.

ency is in fact higher on buses - a fact which helped put the railroads into passenger profit trouble years ago. He said a passenger line would "run into the millions." He was emphatically negative about the commission's naive hopes: "I can categorically state," he said, "that Southern Pacific has no interest whatsoever in establishing a passenger line on the Lone Pine branch.. Zero interest."

So far, however, Southern Pacific has "filed nothing with the Interstate Commerce Commission," which regulates rail routes in the country.

Would there be any advantage at all in a Lone Pine passenger line?

"The nostalgia factor," answered Hall wryly. Clearly that is a factor not worth the price these days. Nostalgia is indeed not what it used to be.

Continued next page

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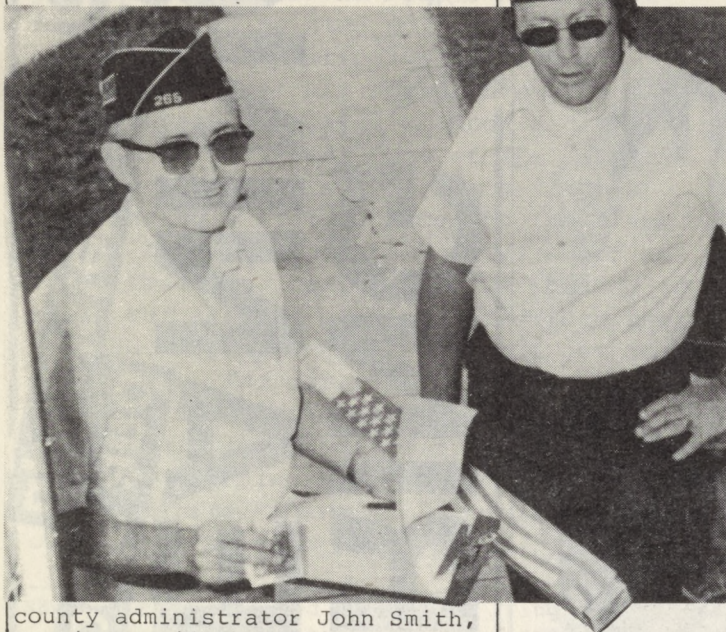
INYO COUNTY VETERANS may march in force again. Although Inyo County officials haven't admitted it, veterans service officer Bill Hastings believes they fully intend to close down the Inyo County veterans office.

Concerned over the view of

the VA, Hastings said he understands that those funds will be terminated because of lack of activity in that department.

Hastings said that he knows the supervisors have received letters from veterans asking that the office stay open. One such letter bore more than 270 signatures.

Photo: John Heston



Inyo's veterans are unified and active in civic and political affairs. As a general rule, the courthouse listens when they speak. Here, two Legion members work in a flag sales campaign in Independence.

county administrator John Smith, Hastings said that "his attitude hasn't changed. He had said he couldn't see spending tax dollars to keep this office open. Last year Smith made some verbal agreements on getting us a third employee but when it came time to make that recommendation to the board, he didn't do it."

Hastings commented on courthouse sentiments about supervisory spending. "Frankly, and I'm not alone on this, I've been involved in financial analysis too long to swallow this BS about being short of money when week after week I see the board spending money frivolously. They spent \$11,800 on a new gas pump for the county yard. When you're short of money, you don't buy things like that."

Hastings warned that Inyo County's veterans, some 3,000 of them may not sit idly by and let their office be closed. The VSO said his office brought in \$1,246,000 direct cash to county residents last year in vet payments, and helped vets get more than 1200 hospital days in VA hospitals. There were also referrals to the veterans office from the welfare department.

Hastings also sees Mono County veterans; he said that state requirements demand that he not turn these vets away. He says he's not soliciting the mono vets but that he talks to possibly two each month. Asked about Mono County's subvention funds from

And according to Hastings, if officials try to close his office, they can expect to see "veterans picketing the courthouse and at board meetings. They just won't stand for it."

SCHAT'S STRIKE: PICKETERS MAY EXPAND THEIR PROTEST

STILL ON THE PICKET LINE: Several of Schat's bakery workers. They walked out of the Bishop bakery plant weeks ago, and still no settlement in their complaint. There were negotiations, but Dan Schat and spokesman for the bakers union could not agree. Schat said he won't have a closed shop. The union said the shop would not be closed in any case, but that the union must be admitted to the plant.

Meanwhile, the Bakers and Confectioners Union continues to pay strike wages to the forty-odd picketing strikers.

According to a union business agent, Pete Peters, the stalemate may soon be broken. He said that the union's next move will be to "pick out the best stores down south and picket them."

"The stores," that is, which sell Schat's products, among them some of the southland's major food chains. For those pic-

NARCOTICS: INYO OFFICERS MAKE ANOTHER "MAJOR" BUST

By Los Angeles or Miami standards, Inyo's recent narcotics roundup would be no great score, but the investigation and the ensuing arrests amounted to a telling blow a-



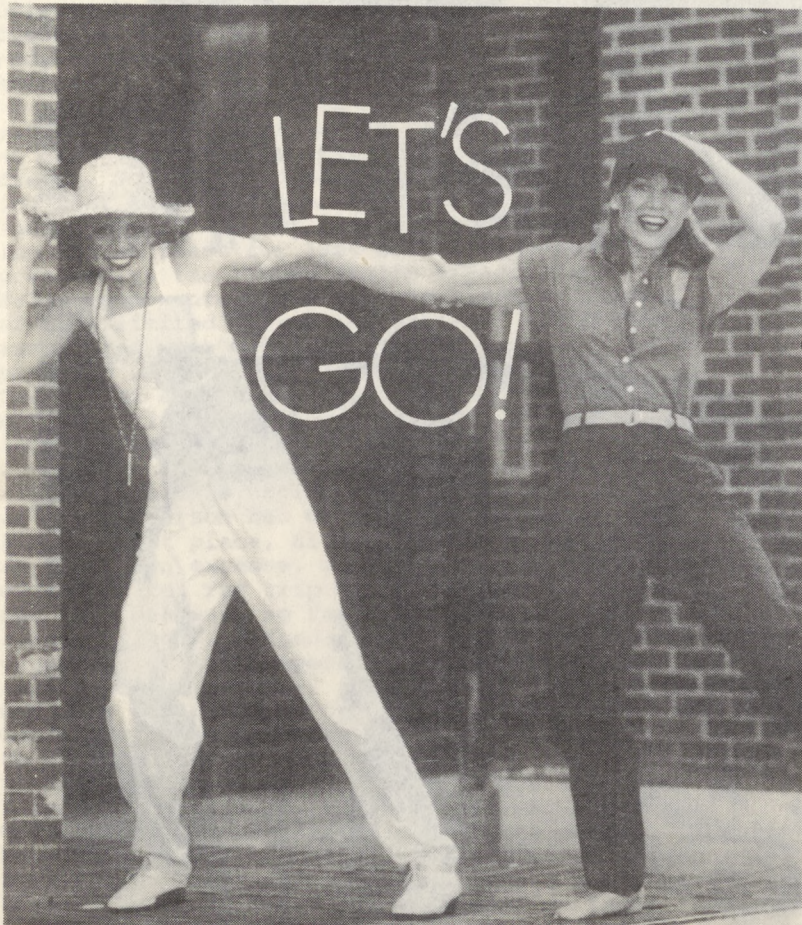
gainst the county's nagging and ongoing dope problems among young people. The local cops were justifiably proud. For weeks, the officers had worked undercover to make cases against 16 alleged offenders, among them a handful of adolescents. Also netted in the dope "bust" which was not unlike a similar roundup of just a year ago, was a cache of dangerous drugs worth a stunning \$200,000. In the photo above, two defendants charged with selling drugs are led back to jail following a court hearing.

ket lines, Peters said that the union membership "in that area" will take to the pavement. Peters also plans to picket the new Schat's outlet on Bishop's Main Street.

EMBARCADERO

ARLINE GRAY

GIFTS: FROM ONE DOLLAR TO TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS. IMPORTS, BRASS / FASHIONS: SLEEK LOOKS FOR LARGE SIZES / FOR A TREAT IN SHOPPING DO COME IN AND SEE / BROWSE AROUND OUR SPACIOUS SHOW ROOM, SUITE R, SEVEN-EIGHT-SEVEN NORTH MAIN, COTTONWOOD PLAZA, BISHOP

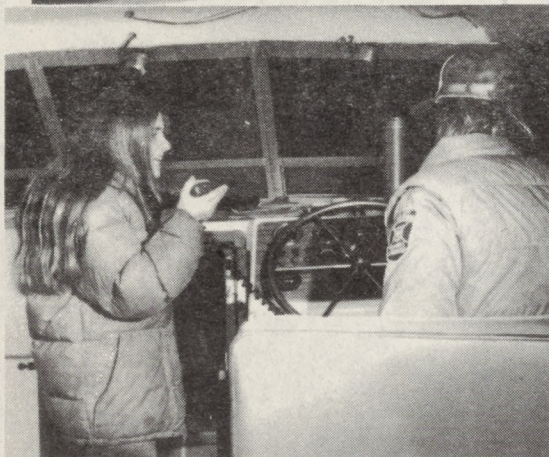


LET'S GO DISCOUNT

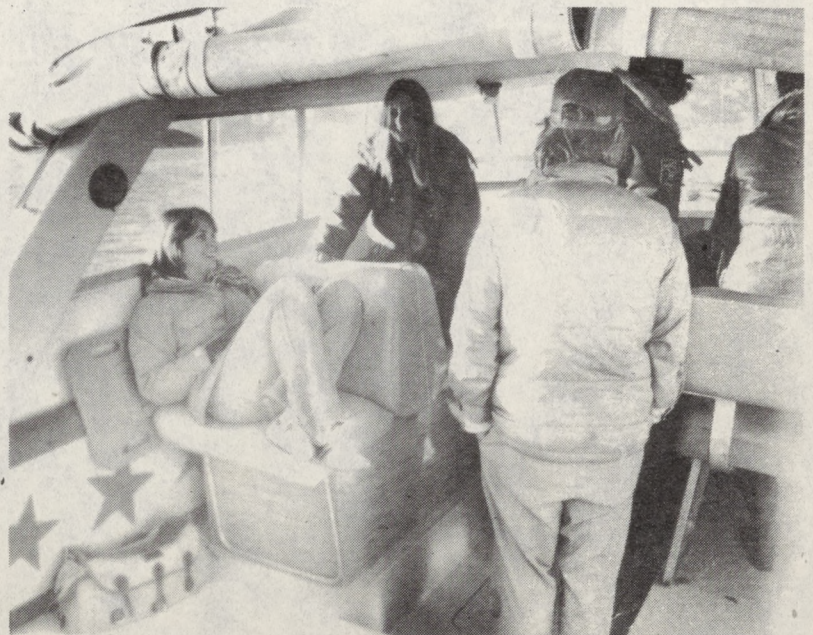
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They heard her "all the time on the radio," and the Crowley Lake patrol boat crew invited News-Letter's Benett Kessler to fire off the gun opening the 1980 fishing season. After the blast, Benett gave a KIOQ news report, live, over the boat radio (inset), and at sunrise she and Chalfant Press reporter Marilyn Fisher relaxed for a boat ride. See Notes from B.K., next page.



Notes from B.K.



Benett
Kessler

THE TWO GUYS I'D-MOST-PREFER-TO-BE-RESCUED-BY, on (or in) Crowley Lake: Daryl Cooper and Kevin Worden, the sharp (and sharp-looking) lifeguards and lake patrolmen up at Crowley. Why, they've even got command of *their very own little yacht*, the patrol boat. And who wouldn't be im-

pressed by *that!*? Daryl and Kevin are KIOQ-FM News fans and they wanted to see who was behind the voice. In any case they invited yours truly to "fire off the opening gun" to start Crowley Lake's 1980 fishing season, as documented over on the opposite page. First time in my life I've ever lost any sleep over *fish!* The flare was to be fired just after four ayem. Would you believe people get up at that hour *to go fishing?*! The real treat came later - a sunrise cruise tour of the lake with Daryl and Kevin and with *Chalfant Press* reporter Marylin Fisher who is currently the local paper's top front-page by-liner. And also with a couple of other friends bearing television equipment for Los Angeles' Crowley-covering Channel 7. Thanks Kevin, thanks Daryl; it was great. Nothing like doing things with a *flare*, as I always say!

GEE, I would never have thought that City of L.A. people would invite me to be on the *firing end* of a gun!

PERSONALLY, I'D RATHER go to Madras or Yucatan, or practically any place. Cuba nowadays with the exception of a couple of villages in Oriente Province, is about as attractive as, say, Brooklyn. But let's say for instance, that somebody *does* want to go there. (No telling for tastes, or course, or for motives either). But if they dig it, why not? *But it certainly is no cause for a political smear*, and from the best we can gather that's what's been going on at Bishop. Somebody has circulated a letter claiming that Andy Anderson, director of the Toiyabe Indian Health Project, was thinking about spending Indian funds for just such a trip to study, presumably, the "Cuban health organization." Well, word went around that Anderson, a leader of the "limited growth initiative," was somehow associated with Cuba, or, in the carefully emphasized words of the letter, *Communist Cuba*. Several of Anderson's opponents were all too happy to tie the *Communist Cuba* trip into the local election issue: Smear politics at its worst. When the phone at the newsroom started ringing, callers urging us to "look into it," we did. Anderson had denied he planned any trip in the first place, although some Indian groups, at their own expense, might go from other parts of the state. The trip was "discussed" locally but the idea went no farther than that. Was Anderson lying? I wanted to check, so I called the organizer of the proposed tour at Sacramento. He confirmed that neither Anderson nor anyone else made any reservations or plans whatever to go to Cuba. Now we're told that the letter was taken to a local service club meeting (not the first time somebody has been smeared at one of those; I know, for instance, that I was!). Anyhow, Anderson and most of the limited growth people know clearly where I stand on the limited growth initiative: I am against it for what I believe to be very intelligent reasons based on facts gathered by the news service. My view is that the proposal will fail at the polls on its own

lack of relevancy or merit. Overeager enthusiasts have no need to smear Anderson or any of his people in order to win. Throwing the word "Communist" around is not only thoughtless and irresponsible; it is also politically impractical. My suggestion is to vote "No" on initiatives "A" and "B", but do it for the right reasons. Unproven implications of communist association went out with McCarthy. Good riddance to both. The anti-initiative people have quite a good case against it, a believable case; they don't have to sling mud.

AS FOR "CUBA", it's a laugh anyway: An amateur's attempt at socialism-communism that is an embarrassment even to Russia. Cuba is headed by a bearded puppet-clown, fool enough even to make us wish that Cuba was back in the hands of the Mafia, as it was for many years.

AND SO ON TO PLEASANTER THINGS AND PEOPLE: New addition to our Very Pleasant People list: Arline Gray. She's the lady we met at dinner (Whiskey Creek) the other p.m. and who brings some new ideas to Bishop shoppers through her Cottonwood Plaza shop, the *Embarcadero*. VPP Gray comes to Inyo from San Diego where she operates another *Embarcadero*. She started out "in Indian arts and crafts as a wholesaler, then later shared a partnership with a lawyer who liked nautical goods." When he changed businesses Gray kept the brass, some of which is to be found at the local outlet. And now she's cooked up a line of fashions for large sizes - "weighty women who want to look fashionable." I'm a bit skinny for that, but I dig Gray's creative brass. And so *okay already!* - So I throw in a free plug every now and then!

WITH GAS PRICES BEING WHAT THEY ARE, we can understand, but not approve, some county people taking a dip here and there into the Inyo County gas supply. We learned that the county yard at Independence had recently been noting shortages - so much so that Bob Fisher, the public works director, had no choice but to put a new lock on the county yard pump. Fisher verified the incident, and said a new lock mechanism requires a special key. Under the new system, each county department will have a key, and the mechanism will automatically record who is taking how much of the county's gasoline. So much for free rides at taxpayer expense. Until now we didn't really think there were thieves at the courthouse!

AND HERE'S THE REAL SCOOP on the county's list of priorities in the new deal some of our

Daily news reports by News-Letter Columnist Benett Kessler may be heard on KIOQ-FM 100, at 7:05, 8:05, 12:05 and 5:05.

officials are making behind the scenes with DWP: First off, dump District Attorney L.H. "Buck" Gibbons who, with his own very strong political base, won't kowtow to Inyo County's power broker, John K. Smith, the county administrator. Smith and (now) Supervisor Johnny Johnson have been conferring with Department of Water and Power officials about a lot of things other than just buying the valley towns' water systems. DWP demands, and apparently the administration is willing to go along with it (for nothing in return, except increased power for John K. and any cooperative supervisors), that Buck Gibbons and Special County Counsel Tony Rossmann get the axe. DWP would like nothing better, and God knows what the water people would be willing to concede (or pay, privately) for that! But what DWP *will not concede in any "agreement"* is any point that would reduce sky-high income from water and power customers, reduced groundwater pumping - or, for that matter, anything else of real value to Owens Valley. John K. and Johnny Johnson have been talking to Duane Georgeson and Paul Lane. Our source, which is considered reliable and also privy to some of the "negotiations", said a willingness to talk was prompted by the idea that maybe the public should know what's "really going on." Simply stated, the recent issue of whether Inyo County needs (a very expensive) "county counsel" is directly related to what appears to be another administration sell-out to DWP. (Shades of last summer! They couldn't get it past the public then, so now they're trying a new tack.)

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Dump the special counsel and the D.A., leaving him with a mighty staff of just two. Buck would be relegated over to the criminal courts and pulled entirely off of the DWP issue. That would leave the county administrator and soft-line supervisors with a totally free hand to give it all away to DWP, as they clearly wanted to do last summer until public outrage stopped them. They're claiming - unrealistically, it seems - that the money paid to Rossmann and to Buck Gibbons would foot the bill for a county counsel's office. The "county counsel" would in effect become a puppet bowing to the whims of the "negotiators." Having no political base of his own, he'd have to knuckle under - still more power for John K. and company.

GUESS WHO THE BOARD IS LOOKING AT as a possible county counsel candidate. He is none other than Greg James who recently was reported to be "splitting away" from a law partnership with Fred Schaefer, the former Bishop city attorney who some time back resigned that position to go full-time into his private practice.

Word got out that John K. Smith had talked to James about taking the position. James said that Smith told him he had "talked" to the supervisors, and Smith wanted to know if James was interested.

James told us that he is "considering" it. But then he added that the supervisors are the only ones who can make the offer.

What does he think of the job? "I've talked about staffing, he said, "I would need two people as a minimum. Myself and another attorney."

James said too, that he would want to know if Tony Rossmann will be excluded because that would be "a major impact. Replacing Tony Rossmann would be like replacing three lawyers." James referred to Rossmann's reknowned expertise in environmental law, an expertise that so far has served the people of Inyo quite well, though James did not say that.

James also said there is the question of legal service to special districts, and to the water litigation. He said that he and Fred Schaefer have dissolved their private practice and James is now "on his own." He said too that he has job possibilities in other parts of the state.

BIG LAUGH DEPARTMENT: And who's laughing? DWP's Jim Wickser, or so we're told on good authority. What's Jim laughing about? Why, his own people, of course, among others. He and some DWP cronies stopped in at a Southern Inyo cafe and began joking about the Concerned Citizens Committee, a "dying organization" whose strike over water meters had failed. Wickser is said to have found it still more amusing that a few people paid more than they were billed in order to support the "flat rate". (I was one of them, of course.) And Jim had some more good yuks lately (Old people unable to afford green lawns or their gardens watered, is really very, very funny): Seems one of his own people came into the office shaking with fear and anger (That's funny, too. Right?). The man had gone to turn off someone's water at Big Pine. When he got to the house, the wife said the bill had been paid. But the DWP worker had no record of it. The wife called the husband who came rushing home with checkbook stubs to prove it. But the husband had been pushed too far (A lot of us are getting to that point), so he went inside, got his Colt .45 and stood in the doorway. The meterman split, but quick. When he told Wickser what happened, Jim is reported to have "just laughed". We got the story from a source within the department.

AND SO, FOLKS, if you know any good stories about suffering old people, about serious threats by armed and irate householders, send them along to Jim and the other DWP brass. They need a good laugh now and then. The address: DWP office, Bishop, California, 93514.

MORE ON THAT GUN INCIDENT: When Supervisor Johnny Johnson heard about it, he told some constituents that if DWP turns off *just one* water line, the "negotiations" are over. He'll quit talking to DWP. Maybe he should anyway.

A FEW OF OUR DARWIN READERS were justifiably miffed. In our last edition we published a full-page picture of Darwin's charming 83-year-old mayor - a photo which, incidentally, brought compliments to photographer Leah Camilucci - but then failed to give more than passing mention to Darwin's new museum. A group calling itself the Coso Heritage Society is behind the museum project, and CHS and its good works were not even mentioned. Our apologies. The fact is that more than 200 people, some of them from as far away as Arizona, turned up for the museum opening. There were a number of friendly re-unions among people who had once lived in Darwin. Among them: the grandson of Dr. E. Darwin French, who explored the area in the 1860's. The grandson turned up with the doc's old medical kit which is now a prized museum piece along with a number of other interesting artifacts.

AND MAY THE NEWS in your day be good news every day,

Sincerely,

BK

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WATCH OUT FOR 'CODE' WORDS

code name, a conventional word or name assigned to a secret agent, project, or assignment to avoid identification or detection by enemy intelligence:

code (kōd), *n., v., cod|ed, cod|ing.* — *n.* 1a a system of words, letters, figures, or other symbols, used to keep a message short or secret; system of secret writing: **b** a system of signals for sending messages.

Bureaucrats and politicians - and lots of just plain folks - have learned that they can make a bad situation look better, or a very acceptable situation look awful, by calling it something other than what it really is. These people acquired entire new vocabularies using words that intentionally distort or lie, or, worse yet, words that say nothing at all when something needs to be said; vocabularies in short that are self-serving, vocabularies full of "code" words. Euphemisms.

Now in Inyo County a new "code" word has appeared. It is

"LIMITED GROWTH"

In two surveys taken here the population expressed a majority view clearly favoring "limited growth." The surveys indicated the presence of a strong political base holding that view. But now another group, a very small minority that favors not "limited growth," but NO-growth, wants to make an appeal to that majority's votes, and so the NO-growth people have attempted to conceal their real intentions by telling people that they too support "limited growth."

But their actions reveal their real meaning to the term "limited growth." For instance, they go before boards and planning hearings and, so far, they have blocked every project to provide much-needed low-cost housing. Lately, the NO-growth types, still parading behind a banner of "limited growth," have even managed to stack some of those boards with their own super-conservative brand of "planners." Why do they do this? Because they already have substantial homes and (for now) secure jobs; now that they are safely "in," they want to close the gate on everybody else. They couldn't care less about older people, people on fixed incomes, and younger people with families - the working people.

Your own job, your own future home, seems now to be in their hands. Any kind of economic growth, including jobs and housing, is no longer just "limited," it is blocked. All this in the name - another use of "code" words - of "conserving the environment." Ask yourself this: When YOUR house or apartment was built, did it REALLY damage the "environment," or the "quality of life"?

The solution: The next time you're asked to sign a "limited growth" petition, or the next time you talk to a public official, or get stopped by one of these "limited growth" people, let them know that you are aware of their real intentions, that you know something about "code" words that they use to confuse you, and that you know something about plain English.

"Limited growth" in their terms means NO-growth. It is dangerous, placing all growth, all construction, all progress and county independence into a state of stagnation. It also makes any growth whatever the exclusive right of an elite and favored few. Don't be fooled: Watch out for "code" words.

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